

Clinton Won Assurances
Of Peacekeeper Security
Formal Vow Was Sought to Convince
Congress to Approve U.S. Contingent

By Michael Dobbs
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — On the final day of Bosnia peace talks, at President Clinton's insistence, U.S. negotiators got from the presidents of Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia promising to guarantee the safety of NATO peacekeeping troops.

administration's campaign to convince Congress to approve the deployment of 20,000 troops to Bosnia, a third of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization force that help keep the peace.

Rebels Trapped, Sri Lanka
Warns Against Reprisals

COLOMBO — President Chandrika Kumaratunga on Friday warned against ethnic reprisals ahead of the scheduled capture of the Jaffna stronghold.

power to deliver the Bosnian Serbs. The Bosnian Serb delegates refused to take part in the initialing ceremony Tuesday.

At the beginning of the war, there was little difference in the views of Mr. Milosevic and the leaders of the Bosnian Serbs, such as Radovan Karadzic, who was regarded as the creature of the Serbian president.



Nuns from a Carmelite monastery going to vote Friday on the divorce referendum in Delgany, County Wicklow.

In Close Finish, Irish Vote on Divorce
Bitter and Emotional Debate Leaves Nation Fuming

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

DUBLIN — After weeks of perhaps the bitterest and most emotional national debate in modern Ireland, this overwhelmingly Roman Catholic country voted Friday on whether to lift its constitutional ban on divorce.

its authority. Church leaders have acknowledged that its image has been seriously damaged by a series of cases involving priests accused and convicted of sexual abuse of children.

described clerical politics as "the comfortable arcana of ecclesiastical snuggeries."

Most Popular U.S. Address: Wall Street
Stocks Outpace Real Estate as Primary Investments

By Brett D. Fromson
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — Behind the rapid run-up in U.S. stock prices in the 1990s lies a basic change: Stocks are replacing

Table with 2 columns: Index Name, Current Value, Previous Close. Includes Dow Jones, S&P 500, Nikkei, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Country, Exchange Rate. Includes Luxembourg, Morocco, Qatar, etc.

homes as the primary nest egg for many American families, according to economists and market analysts.

Stephen Zeldes, professor of finance at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, said that in 1989 one-third of U.S. households held shares either directly or indirectly, while in 1992, 40 percent did.

Moscow's New Outcasts: Pensioners-Turned-Peddlers

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — Every day, a small army takes up positions on the sidewalks of Moscow, near the busy subway and railway stations.

cigarettes, bottles of vodka, loaves of bread and dried fish. They stand silently, expectantly displaying their pathetic wares, while keeping an eye out for harassment by the police and thugs.

to take their own clothes out to the street and hawk them just to be able to afford milk and bread.

Grachev to Join
NATO Ministers

BRUSSELS (AP) — Defense Minister Pavel S. Grachev of Russia will work out the last contentious issues involved in Moscow's participation in the Bosnia peacekeeping arrangements with defense ministers from the 16 NATO nations who will be meeting in Brussels on Tuesday.

Louis Malle Dies at 63

Louis Malle, 63, the French film director, died Thursday at his California home. Mr. Malle, who was married to the actress Candice Bergen, was one of the most enduring and varied directors of postwar cinema. Page 5.



IN THE STREET — Public sector employees marching through Bordeaux on Friday as a general strike paralyzed much of France. Page 4.

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Chancellor Withholds Support For Dane

Reuters

BONN — Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Friday denied reports that Germany had thrown its weight behind Denmark's Uffe Ellemann-Jensen for the vacant post of NATO secretary-general.

"The government has never been of this opinion," Mr. Kohl said. He was referring to reports that Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel had backed Mr. Ellemann-Jensen to head the Western alliance. "This report is simply wrong," Mr. Kohl told a news conference.

Mr. Ellemann-Jensen met Mr. Kinkel in Bonn on Thursday as part of a conference of European liberal parties. But the former Danish foreign minister did not meet Mr. Kohl.

Mr. Kinkel's Free Democrats, the junior partner of Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats in the Bonn government, have already come out in support of the Dane.

But the government backed the former Dutch prime minister, Ruud Lubbers. He later withdrew his candidacy for the post, left vacant after Belgium's Willy Claes resigned last month over a domestic corruption scandal.

Mr. Kohl said he was confident an agreement on a successor would be reached soon.

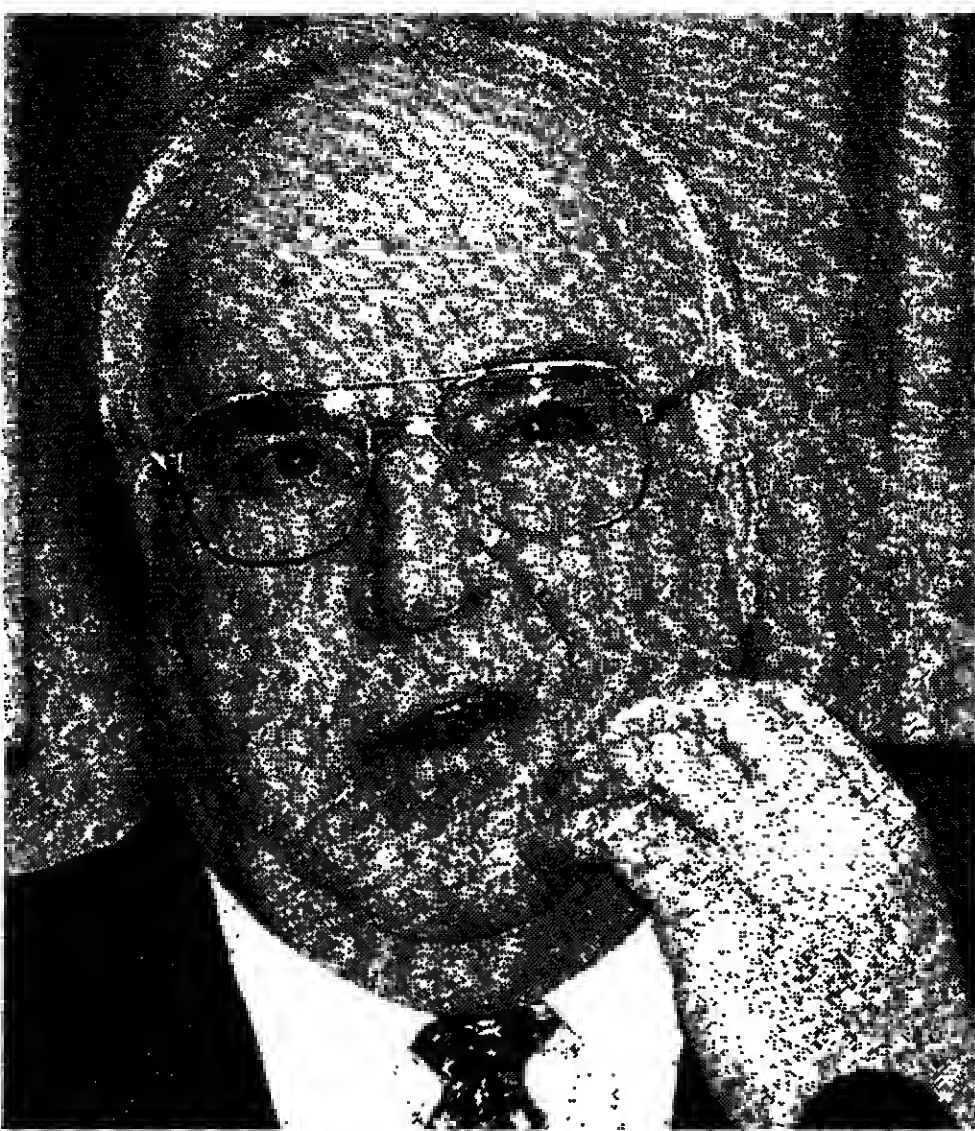
Greece Is Opposed
Greece has joined France in blocking Mr. Ellemann-Jensen's candidacy, Reuters reported from Athens.

Telemachos Hytiris, the government spokesman, said Greece had made clear to its fellow NATO members that it disagreed with Mr. Ellemann-Jensen's filling the post of secretary-general.

When asked Friday to explain the reasons for the objections, he said: "Obviously, because of positions he expressed in the past on issues concerning Greece."

The bitterness stems from Greece's long campaign to bar its northern neighbor, the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, from gaining international recognition.

In 1993, during Denmark's presidency of the EU, Mr. Ellemann-Jensen, then foreign minister, said he was "sick and tired" of Greece's stance, which held the EU hostage and threatened its solidarity.



Chancellor Kohl talking in Bonn on Friday about domestic politics and his visit to Asia.

Kohl Challenges Socialist Foes

Idea of Leftist Front Promises an 'Exciting Fight'

Reuters

BONN — Chancellor Helmut Kohl threw down the gauntlet to the opposition Social Democrats on Friday, daring them to challenge him with a leftist front that their new leader wants to form.

In his first reaction to the party's move to the left with Oskar Lafontaine's surprise election as leader earlier this month, Mr. Kohl said the Social Democratic Party would need both the Greens and the Party of Democratic Socialism to form a majority.

He told a news conference that the Party of Democratic Socialism was Marxist, anti-Western and anti-American and must be fought energetically.

"Lafontaine is a man who likes to gamble in politics," said Mr. Kohl, who was in Hanoi on a tour of Asia when the populist Saar state premier trumped the Social Democratic Party's former chairman, Rudolf Scharping, in a sudden showdown vote on Nov. 16.

"The new SPD chairman said after his election that there is a majority for the left wing. We'll have to try this out with each other, without any delay," Mr. Kohl said. "This will be an exciting fight and I'm looking forward to it. Let's go!"

Questioned by a reporter, Mr. Kohl denied this meant he wanted to call the next general election before its 1998 target date.

His Christian Democrats, he said, would use the campaigns for state polls next March in Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate and Schleswig-Holstein to tell people that the Social Democratic Party was trying to rehabilitate the shunned Party of Democratic Socialism.

The Social Democrats promptly issued a statement criticizing Mr. Kohl for making a bogeyman out of the former Communists and avoiding such problems as unemployment and the stagnant economy. "The SPD won't fall for this," it said. "We are speaking with the PDS and want to win over its voters. We reject the chancellor's shameful insinuations."

Mr. Kohl, faced with a far livelier opposition than he has for years, criticized Mr. Lafontaine and the way he came to power at his party's annual congress. He said Mr. Lafontaine's election was a well-planned coup that was unprecedented in German politics.

"The voting out of Rudolf Scharping reveals a degree of shabbiness that I, for one, did not think was possible in the Social Democratic Party," Mr. Kohl said.

Bosnian Serb Leader Accepts Accord

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina — The Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, on Friday accepted the U.S.-brokered peace accord that was initiated for his country by President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia.

"We have accepted the initials," Mr. Karadzic said on Bosnian Serbian television, adding: "However, between now and the signing in Paris, many things need to be achieved."

"I can say we achieved our goal — we have half of Bosnia, more than 40 cities and also good land."

But he added that the stipulation of the agreement that called for the handover of Serbian suburbs of Sarajevo to the control of the Muslim-Croat federation would lead to further conflict unless it was renegotiated.

"We accepted peace but we will search for a solution to Sarajevo," he said in his first public comment on the Dayton agreement.

Momcilo Krajcinovic, a senior Bosnian Serb official, said on the same program that he had been left on the sidelines for 15 days during the talks at Dayton, Ohio, by Mr. Milosevic, whom he accused of being only interested in the lifting of sanctions on Serbia.

"We now have accepted peace," Mr. Karadzic said.

"and we don't want any more war."

"But we would not say that we don't want" the northwestern Bosnian town of Sanski Most and "we will not give up" Serbian-controlled parts of Sarajevo, he added.

He said the Serbs would pursue their goals "through a political struggle and negotiations."

Mr. Karadzic said the "Serb Republic" was "internationally recognized as an entity that is part of the future nation" of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and "one step from international recognition."

Mr. Karadzic began meeting Friday with Serbian leaders from the Sarajevo region who have rejected the landmark Bosnia peace accord. The talks are at a hotel in Pale, the Bosnian Serb stronghold.

Those summoned by Mr. Karadzic included the military warlords from several Serbian-controlled Sarajevo neighborhoods, which, according to the accord, are to be integrated into the Muslim-Croat federation. (AFP, Reuters)

UN Base Raided

Bosnian government troops on Friday raided a UN base being vacated by peacekeepers before the arrival of NATO troops, stealing armored vehicles and fuel. The Associated Press reported from Sarajevo.

Balkan Talks Strain Ties Among Allies

Reuters

PARIS — Behind the smiles and handshakes, French officials are giving a bitter account of how the United States sought to freeze its European allies out of negotiations in Dayton, Ohio, that led to this week's Bosnia peace agreement.

"The weight of American diplomacy was obviously very strong," Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette told a closed-door meeting of the French National Assembly's foreign affairs committee, according to expurgated minutes released Friday.

"Despite American attempts to marginalize them, the other delegations, and notably the French, expended much energy to get across the European point of view," he said.

"There were some tense moments, but the negotiations ended in an atmosphere of general satisfaction," he added. French diplomats involved in the talks privately gave an even stronger picture of conflict.

As time went by, one said, U.S. officials dropped all talk of Paris hosting an international peace conference and signing ceremony, prompting Mr. de Charette to warn the U.S. ambassador, Pamela Harriman, last Sunday that France would not initial the Dayton agreement since it had "strong reservations."

Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher then telephoned Mr. de Charette to promise that Paris would get the ceremony, he said.

Another source said Washington had asked Paris not to hold the conference until the U.S. Congress had agreed to send 20,000 U.S. troops to help enforce the peace alongside British, French, Russian and other allied forces.

As a result, no date has yet been announced for the Paris

event, although Mr. de Charette said in a radio interview Friday that it would be "in the first 10 days of December."

A source in the French delegation in Dayton said the United States refused to allow the Europeans or the Russians — fellow members of a five-nation Contact Group that was nominally conducting the talks — to take part in negotiations on the map of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

U.S. officials had installed powerful computers in a map room, nicknamed the "Nintendo room," in which the Serb, Bosnian and Croatian presidents could see in "virtual reality" the changes in the map as they were negotiated.

Mr. Christopher boasted that with his three-dimensional display, "We were able to, in effect, 'fly' the people over the area they were talking about, showing them the map on a large video screen so they could actually see what they were talking about."

But the French source noted that the computers calculated the military and geographical data but not the human factor. They had no data on the ethnic origin of the population.

While Mr. de Charette endorsed the outcome of the Dayton negotiations as "globally satisfactory," he acknowledged in response to questions from parliamentarians that there was a risk the peace agreement would lead to the partition of Bosnia and a fresh war.

"One must not neglect the risk that the parties do the minimum to implement these accords in bad faith," he said. "Some considerable partition is inevitable. One must be aware that the breakup of Bosnia-Herzegovina would translate into an immediate conflict in the region of Banja Luka," he added.

Several committee members expressed anger that the United States had taken credit for the peace agreement despite the fact that the Europeans, especially France, had sacrificed soldiers on the ground to make peace possible.

Former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who chairs the parliamentary committee, warned that the Dayton agreement "contains the seeds of a future partition of Bosnia."

BRIEFLY EUROPE

EU-Mediterranean Conference

BRUSSELS — Negotiators from the European Union and 12 Mediterranean states plan to work through the weekend to bridge the gaps separating them on drugs, terrorism, human rights and immigration ahead of a ministerial meeting in Barcelona.

An EU source here said the delegates, gathered in Barcelona, would be trying to reach agreement on the text of a common declaration on security issues expected to be raised at an EU-Mediterranean partnership conference on Monday and Tuesday. (AFP)

Spanish Economic Aide Resigns

MADRID — Spain's crisis-hit Socialist government suffered another blow on Friday when the Economy Ministry's No. 2 official quit in an apparent policy dispute.

A ministry spokesman said Alfredo Pastor, secretary of state for the economy, had resigned for personal motives, but sources said he had deep differences with his minister over the pace of reform and reducing the public deficit. (Reuters)

600,000 Dispute Walesa's Defeat

WARSAW — More than 600,000 voters have protested to Poland's Supreme Court, alleging that President-elect Alexander Kwasniewski beat President Lech Walesa on the basis of cheating and falsehood, Walesa aides said on Friday.

The Walesa campaign spokesman, Boguslaw Kowalski, said that by just before midnight more than 650,000 protests, equivalent to Mr. Kwasniewski's majority in Sunday's vote, had reached the court, which has until Dec. 9 to make a ruling. (Reuters)

German Rightists Held in Attack

DRESDEN — Police said on Friday they had detained seven extreme-rightist youths suspected of attacking Portuguese construction workers with sticks and a baseball bat in a town in Eastern Germany.

Police said the youths, in their late teens, were believed to have attacked the Portuguese last Saturday night in the town of Großschönau near Leipzig. They had then gone to the workers' hostel where they smashed doors and windows and chanted racist slogans. (Reuters)

Danes Want a New Referendum

COPENHAGEN — A strong majority of Danes, already known as lukewarm supporters of European unity, want another referendum before accepting even tighter ties to the EU, according to an opinion poll published Friday.

In a Gallup poll published Friday, 67 percent of the Danes asked said they wanted a national referendum on accepting possible changes. (AP)

Estonia Signs EU Application

TALLINN, Estonia — Prime Minister Tiit Vahi on Friday signed the official application to join the European Union, making Estonia the second former Soviet republic in the Baltics to seek membership in the community.

Estonia has sought close ties with the West and a rapid shift to a market economy since independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. (AP)

TRAVEL UPDATE

French Rail Workers Extend Strike

PARIS — French rail service was expected to remain severely disrupted Saturday after rail unions called for their strike to continue beyond the 24-hour nationwide public-sector walkout Friday.

The SNCF, the state-run rail authority, said train services around major cities would remain "at virtually nothing," which was the case Friday. The unions are protesting planned welfare reforms.

The SNCF gave no immediate details about expected disruption to inter-city services, TGV high-speed trains or Paris-London Eurostar trains. (AFP)

Brussels Hit by Transport Walkout

BRUSSELS — Belgian rail workers staged a third regional strike in eight days Friday, this time hitting Brussels and paralyzing international services to Paris and London.

"There is no train traffic at all in the Brussels region," a spokesman for the Belgian railroads said. Rail traffic to Paris and London was "practically nothing," he said.

Workers are protesting a restructuring plan that includes the loss of up to 9,000 jobs over 10 years. (Reuters)

An outbreak of yellow fever in Liberia has prompted a mass vaccination campaign by the World Health Organization that is expected to reach more than a million people. (AP)

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HOPE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH (Evangelical), 4, bd. de Pélusse, Colomier. Sunday service, 6:30 p.m. Tel. 02-24-31-18.

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NICE: Holy Trinity (Anglican/Episcopalian), 11 rue de la Bulle, Sunday Eucharist at 11 a.m.; Weekdays are on contact board. VENCE: St. Andrew, rue de la Résistance, Sunday Eucharist at 9 a.m. Contact Pastor Ken Lott 93 97 19 83.

FRANKFURT

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY, Messeturk, Sun. 9 a.m. Sun. 10:00 a.m. at St. Leonhard's Church (near Dom), Alte Mainzer Gasse 6, Frankfurt. Phone: 06172-451197.

KIEV

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY (AOG), Sundays English 10:30, Bilingual 12:00-1:15. Kreshchak St., (800-4) 244-3376.

MUNICH

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CHURCH, Evangelical Bible Believing, services in English, 4:30 p.m. Sundays at Erlangenstr. 10 (U2 Theresienstr.) (089) 550-8617.

PARIS and SUBURBS

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, 88 rue des Bonnes-Fraternités, French Protestant, An Evangelical church for the English speaking community located in the western suburbs. S.S. 9:45, 10:45; Sun. 10:45; Children's Church and Nursery, Youth ministries Dr. B.C. Thomas, pastor. Call 47-51-28-53 or 47-49-15-29 for information.

HOPE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH (Evangelical), Sun. 9:30 a.m. Hotel Odon. Metro 1: Esplanade de la Défense. Tel.: 47-73-53-54 or 47-73-14-27.

SAINT JOSEPH'S CHURCH (Roman Catholic), Masses: Sunday, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m., 12:15 & 6:30 p.m.; Saturday 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 6:30 p.m.; Tel.: 42-27-28-55. Metro: Châtelet de Gaulle - Bata.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH (evangelical Anglican), Sundays 10:30 a.m. (with children's club and crèche) and 8:30 p.m. Midweek study groups, Crutchfield Fellowship in the heart of Paris, 5 rue d'Aguesseau, 75006. Tel.: 47-42-70-88. Metro: Concorde.

ST. PAUL INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, near Gare d'Orléans, Tel.: 32-61-37-40. Worship Services 9:30 a.m. Sundays.

TOKYO UNION CHURCH, near Ohtsuka subway Sta. Tel.: 3400-0047. Worship Services Sunday 9:30 & 11:00 a.m., as at 9:45 a.m.

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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCHES OF EUROPE (Anglican)

PARIS and SUBURBS
THE HOLY TRINITY, Sun. 9 & 11 a.m., 10:45 a.m. Sunday School for children and Nursery care. Third Sunday 5 p.m. Evening, 23 avenue George V, Paris 75008. Tel.: 331-47-20-17-92. Metro: George V or Alma Marceau.

FLORENCE

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, Sun. 9 a.m. File 1 & 11 a.m. File 11. Via Bernardo Rosselli 9, 50123, Florence, Italy. Tel.: 3955 29 41 17.

FRANKFURT

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING (Evangelical/Anglican), Sun. Holy Communion 9 & 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sunday School. 10:45 a.m. Sebastian Platz St. 22, 60325 Frankfurt, Germany. U1, 2, 3 Miguel-Alles. Tel.: 4969 55 01 84.

GENEVA

EMMANUEL CHURCH, 1st & 3rd Sun. 10 a.m. Eucharist; 2nd & 4th Sun. Morning Prayer, 3 rue de Montebello, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland. Tel.: 4122 632 80 78.

MUNICH

THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, Sun. 11:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sunday School, Nursery Care provided. Seyboldstrasse 4, 81545 Munich (Haidhausen), Germany. Tel.: 4969 64 81 85.

ROME

ST. PAUL'S WITHIN THE WALLS, Sun. 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m. Church School for children & Nursery care provided; 1 p.m. Spanish Eucharist. Via Napoli 58, 00186 Roma. Tel.: 398 498 3339 or 398 474 3558.

BRUSSELS/WATERLOO
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, 1st Sun. 9 & 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Children's Chapel at 11:15. All other Sundays: 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sunday School. 563 Chaussée de Louvain, Chate, Belgium. Tel.: 322 384-3555.

WIESBADEN
THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE OF GANTERBURY, Sun. 10 a.m. Family Eucharist. Frankfurtstrasse 3, Wiesbaden, Germany. Tel.: 49611-30253-74.

TOKYO
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BRATISLAVA

I.B.C. (English language, evangelist) Luventia Room 205, Karlovska Ulice 64, Sunday 10:00, Pastor Ben Harnan, Tel.: 715397.

BREMEN

I.B.C. (English language) meets at Evangelisch-Freikirchliche Kreuzgemeinde, Hebelstrasse 1 Hermann-Josef-Str. (around the corner from the Bahnhof) Sunday worship 12:00, Pastor Steve Sligh, Tel. 04781-12877.

BUCHAREST

I.B.C., Strada Popea Rusu 22, 3:00 p.m. Contact Pastor Mike Kemper, Tel. 312 3593.

BUDAPEST

I.B.C., meets in Morics Zsigmond Gimnazium, Torokvossy ut 48-54, Sundays: 10:00 Coffee Fellowship, 10:30 Worship. Take Bus 11 from Budaörsy ter. Other meetings, call Pastor 520 Zsigmond, Tel. 229-3832.

BULGARIA

I.B.C., World Trade Center, 36, Orhan Tzankov Blvd. Workshop 11:00, James Dukes, Pastor. Tel.: 999 695.

CELE/HANNOVER

I.B.C., Wipfstrasse 45, Cele 1300 Workshop, 1400 Bible Study, Pastor Wart Campbell, Tel. (0514) 49416.

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MOSCOW
I.B.C. Meeting 11:00; Kino Center Building 15 Druzhninskaya St. U. Sh. Floor, Hall 6, Metro Station Samokhodnaya Pastor Don Deal, Tel.: (065) 971 3552.

MUNICH
I.B.C. Holzer, 9 English Language Services. Bible study 15:45, worship Service 17:00. Pastor's phone: (089) 680 8534.

NICE - FRANCE

I.B.C. 13 rue Vernier, English service, Sunday evening 8:00, pastor Ray Miller - Tel.: 093 389 388.

PRAGUE

INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP meets at the Czech Baptist Church, Vrchabská 168, Prague 3. At metro stop Jirchova. Sunday 11 a.m. 11:50 Pastor: Al major. Tel.: 021 311 7974.

WATERLOO

WATERLOO BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP, 1490 at Wellington Church, Chaussee de Charlevoix 2 across from McDonalds. Tel.: 055 225076.



POLICE BATTLE VETERANS IN SAN SALVADOR — Riot police clash with veterans in San Salvador after storming a building to release 27 hostages held five hours. The ex-combatants were seeking payment of pensions promised them in the 1994 accord that ended the civil war. One veteran was killed and at least 13 were wounded.

Gunman Sought Rodney King Attacker

RUBIDOUX, California — A gunman said to be looking for a former police sergeant convicted in the Rodney King beating stormed a halfway house and killed a man before being shot and killed by the police.

The gunman, Randall Craig Tolbert, 34, also shot and wounded a man and pistol-whipped a woman in the house Thursday, authorities said. The bullet grazed the man's head. A report on the woman's condition was not immediately available.

Mr. Tolbert killed Karl Milan, 67, of Phoenix, who was at the house about 60 miles (about 100 kilometers) east of Los Angeles to help a friend service vending machines, the authorities said.

Mr. Tolbert apparently sought to kill former Sergeant Stacey Koon, who is finishing a federal sentence for violating Mr. King's civil rights in 1991. Mr. Koon and three other white officers were videotaped beating Mr. King, who is black, after a

traffic stop. Mr. Koon spent Thanksgiving with his family and was not at the Re-Entry Community Corrections Center when the gunman burst into the house in the afternoon, said Mr. Koon's lawyer, Ira Salzman.

Mr. Tolbert, who was black, said over drinks Wednesday night that he wanted to kill Mr. Koon, said Phil Chavez, a friend of the gunman's. "He was drinking" and "he wanted to do it last night," Mr. Chavez said. "He just wanted to kill that guy."

AMERICAN TOPICS

American Toy Manufacturers Predict the Season's Best-Sellers

The Toy Manufacturers of America issued its prediction for the most popular toys this season. The list is in alphabetical order, includes toy name, average retail price and manufacturer.

Baby Tumble Surprise, \$16, Toy Biz
Ball Pit, \$100, Hedstrom
Barbie, \$12, Mattel
Barbie's Baby Sister Kelly, \$10, Mattel
Batman Forever, \$6, Hasbro Toy Group
Crayola Crayons, \$1, Binney & Smith
Gargoyles Heroes, \$6, Hasbro Toy Group
Gizmos with Sonic 2, \$120, Sega of America

Hot Wheels cars, \$1, Mattel
Kitchen Center All-In-One, \$63, Mattel
Mortal Kombat figures, \$5, Hasbro Toy Group
Playstation System, \$300, Sony Computer Entertainment
Pocahontas, \$15, Mattel
PreComputer Power Pad, \$88, V-Tech
Sega Saturn, \$400, Sega of America
Star Wars figures, \$5, Hasbro Toy Group
Sky Dancer, \$10, Lewis Galoob
Virtual Boy, \$170, Nintendo of America

Short Takes

John Watters, who helped pioneer the use of needle exchanges and bleach to prevent the spread of AIDS, has died of an apparent drug overdose. Mr. Watters, 47, an assistant professor of family and community medicine at the San Francisco campus of the University of California, was found dead in his apartment. A syringe, spoon and white powder lay on a nearby table, and he had needle tracks on his arm, a coroner's report said. The type of drug was not specified.

Howard Stern, the radio talk-show host, says his ideal guest is a celebrity who has yet to reach the top or is no longer there. "I don't look down on them," he told New York magazine. "I don't use them. I accept them." He added that guests on the "B-list," as he termed it, "are more honest and open. They are willing to tell you something about their lives and not sit and tell you about their latest project — because they don't have a latest project."

The most famous photo of Franklin D. Roosevelt shows the 32nd president with jaunty fedora, 100-kilowatt smile and cigarette holder pointed skyward at an insouciant 45-degree angle. Councilman Kevin Bergin of Mr. Roosevelt's hometown of Hyde Park, New York, has proposed putting this silhouette on the town seal. Anti-smoking forces want the cigarette removed first. Hyde Park is now conducting an informal poll. The silhouette short of smoking materials has garnered only one vote to date.

International Herald Tribune

Away From Politics

• Trying new ways to thin the deer population, Virginia has opened a \$250-a-person "Southern Heritage" hunt, with horse-drawn wagons and other activities reminiscent of the early South. It's the first hunt at Chippokes Plantation State Park in 30 years, and state officials say the unusual twist is aimed at attracting new people to hunting.

• A family's pet Bengal tiger mauled and critically wounded a 3-year-old boy as his father was walking the animal on a leash in Apex, North Carolina. Tyler William Forsythe underwent surgery for head wounds at a hospital. The year-old, 350-pound male tiger, which had been declawed, was shot dead by the boy's father and police.

• A Toronto man has been ordered to stand trial on charges he sent death threats by fax to Judge Lance Ito, Marcia Clark and others connected with the O.J. Simpson murder trial. Gerald Laviolette, 48, was arrested Aug. 18 after the Los Angeles district attorney's office asked the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to investigate faxes sent during the Simpson trial. Mr. Laviolette's trial is to begin Dec. 4.

• A fire at a chemical plant in Howell, Michigan, forced the evacuation of 160 residents of a nearby nursing home. Flames from the fire at Roto Corp. caused minor throat irritation in some of the residents, said Richard Thome, spokesman for the county health department.

Liberal Advocates Seem Speechless Conservatives Fill the Void

By Tamar Lewin
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — With the Republican Congress moving to slash many federal social programs, an odd hush has fallen over Washington: the sound of liberal advocacy groups that have been unable to create much of a clamor against the most drastic cuts in decades.

"If you compare what's going on now to the health care debate two years ago, you can't help but wonder why there is such an eerie silence on issues that are so central to so many people's lives," said Alan Ehrenhalt, executive editor of Governing magazine. "There's so many important things going on in Congress, with Medicaid, Medicare and welfare reform. I read the paper, and I think, 'Where's the noise?'"

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Democrat of New York, who has been frustrated by his inability to muster opposition to the welfare overhaul bill this fall, wonders the same thing, far more furiously.

"Fifteen years ago, if there was a proposal to take \$40 out of some demonstration project here on the Senate floor, there would be 40 representatives of various advocacy groups outside," he said during the recent budget debate. "There are very few advocacy groups outside," he added. "You can stand where I stand and look straight out at the Supreme Court — not a person in between that view. Not one of those flanked, vaunted advocacy groups forever protecting the interests of the children and the helpless and the homeless and the what-you-will."

"Are they increasingly subsidized and therefore increasingly co-opted?" he asked. "Are they silent because the White House is silent?"

What is happening to advocacy? As the government lurches toward its Dec. 15 deadline for resolving how much to spend on Medicare, education, the welfare system and other social programs, the landscape seems dramatically altered.

In part, momentum has shifted from the liberal advocacy groups, which are reeling in the

face of the Republican agenda, to the conservative ones, which have gained tremendously in strength and power.

For such conservative groups as the Heritage Foundation, the Christian Coalition and the National Right to Life Committee, these are heady days, replete with respectful attention in the news and the chance, for the first time in decades, to work with a congressional majority to change the role of the federal government.

At the same time, the nature of advocacy has changed, becoming less a matter of mass protests and grassroots coalitions than an expensive amalgam of focus groups, paid television ads, E-mail and faxes put together by highly paid Washington lawyers.

The sheer breadth of the battles to be fought has stunted many liberal advocacy groups: Welfare, legal services, Medicare and Medicaid are all under attack. Some advocates say they have felt compelled to cooperate with the Republicans rather than lose all by fighting.

Contributing to the silence is the difficulty of mobilizing their own members at a time when so many Americans have lost faith in government.

Liberal advocacy groups say they have lobbied desperately to get the White House and Congress to reject Republican spending cuts, and have won some important concessions.

And as to mobilizing mass support, they say, it is not that they are keeping quiet, but that no one much is listening — and that outside Washington, there is little understanding of the profound social changes the Republicans propose.

In addition, liberal advocacy groups are currently spending much of their time defending old ground.

"Most of the advocacy work these days is trying to defend the hard-won victories of 10 or 20 years ago, or even back in the New Deal," said David Cohen, co-director of the Advocacy Institute, a Washington group that teaches citizen groups how to influence policy. "But it's not a substitute for a vision. There isn't a vision right now."

Now Jesse's Son Makes a Run

EVERGREEN PARK, Illinois — Shoppers and store clerks at a mall in Evergreen Park ran up to the Reverend Jesse J. Jackson the other day asking for his autograph and squeezing close to pose for pictures.

The civil rights advocate, two-time presidential candidate and talk show host was glad to oblige as he hugged and kissed his way down the hall, the jingle of a Salvation Army bell echoing behind him.

"We need your support," Mr. Jackson told a man who had elbowed his way through a group of people waving pens and paper. "Don't forget to vote for Jesse."

"I promise," the man said, pumping Mr. Jackson's hand. "But you mean Junior, right?"

"That's right," Mr. Jackson replied, a proud-papa smile spreading across his face. "Vote for Jesse Jackson Jr. for Congress."

According to a recent Chicago Tribune poll, Mr. Jackson's oldest son and namesake is leading a crowded field of Democratic candidates in a special primary election set for Nov. 28 to replace former Representative Mel Reynolds in Illinois's 2d Congressional District, a diverse stretch of rich and poor, black and white, urban and suburban. Mr. Reynolds will have to watch the election from a prison cell, having been convicted in August of having sex with an underage campaign worker.

The general election is scheduled for Dec. 12. While the polls show a large number of voters are still undecided, and a Jackson victory is by no means certain, winning the party primary in the heavily Democratic district that includes a large part of Chicago's South Side and several of its southern suburbs has long been a ticket to Washington.

The stakes are high for the elder Jackson, as a parent and a politician. In some ways, the special election is a referendum on Mr. Jackson and his clout.

(NYT)

U.S. Prosecutors Under a Cloud

WASHINGTON — Twenty Justice Department lawyers left their jobs while under investigation for charges of professional misconduct during the first year of the Clinton administration, according to a new department report.

At the same time, allegations of misconduct by department lawyers and assistant U.S. attorneys was 78 percent higher than during the last year of the Bush administration, the department's Office of Professional Responsibility report shows.

The office's report, which is based on 1993 data, tracks a surge of allegations of misconduct that began in fiscal year 1992 and faced Attorney General Janet Reno during her first months in office. The previously undisclosed data — which cover the period Oct. 1, 1992, to Sept. 30, 1993 — are consistent with other indicators that the problem of prosecutorial misconduct among the department's 7,000 lawyers required high-level attention. There was a slight decline in the number of substantiated allegations.

"That certainly is a telling figure," said the Office of Professional Responsibility's counsel, Michael E. Shaheen Jr., of the 20 resignations or retirements, a figure that was previously matched by 22 similar departures from 1985 through 1991. "Sometimes people have an exaggerated view of what they may have done wrong. Sometimes a person, believing that it is going to cost them a job, will opt to resign in order to keep the record clear. Their conduct may not have deserved that extreme sanction."

(WP)

Quote/Unquote

Defense Secretary William J. Perry on the Bosnian peace plan and the role of U.S. troops in it: "Anyone who will attack this force will be met with an immediate and firm response."

(AP)

Swiss Hold Kin of Mexico's Salinas

MEXICO CITY — The Swiss police arrested the sister-in-law of former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari when she tried to withdraw \$84 million from a Swiss bank account with false documents last week, according to the Mexican government.

Officials said the sister-in-law, Paulina Castanon, was arrested in Geneva on Nov. 15. She is the wife of Raúl Salinas de Gortari, who is himself in jail and awaiting trial in Mexico on charges of murdering a senior ruling party politician last year. Raúl Salinas is the elder brother of Carlos Salinas, who left Mexico under a cloud earlier this year after a public dispute with his handpicked successor, President Ernesto Zedillo.

The attorney general's office said late Thursday that Mrs. Castanon tried to withdraw the \$84 million from a Swiss bank

account in the name of Juan Gomez, which officials said is a false name used by Raúl Salinas in some of his financial affairs. It also said Raúl Salinas, a prominent businessman, had made bank deposits totaling \$22.3 billion in the 14 months ending April 30, 1992, when his brother was president and he himself held a post in government.

"Both the deposits carried out in the period and the amounts in those accounts are considerably different to the income declared by the then public servant," the statement said. Raúl Salinas was arrested in February for allegedly ordering the assassination of Francisco Ruiz Massieu, secretary-general of the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party.

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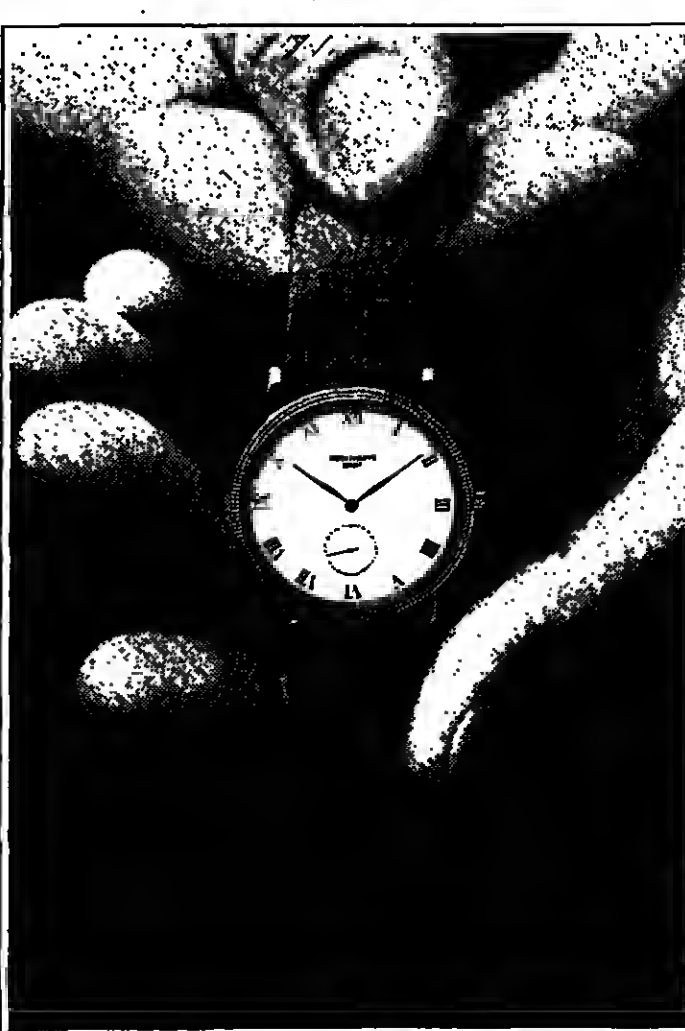


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All claims which are not timely filed as provided herein shall be forever barred as against the Corporation, its assets, directors, officers and shareholders.

Dated November 25, 1995.

Hindsight Brings Praise for Park, Once South Korea's Arch-Villain

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

SEOUL — If there is a villain in South Korean history, it might at first seem to be Park Chung Hee, who overthrew a democratic government and ruled for nearly two decades as a ruthless dictator.

Yet Mr. Park's image these days is improving. While few people deny that he was sometimes brutal, Mr. Park is also increasingly remembered as the architect of the South Korean economic miracle.

"We give some credit to Park for economic development, even though polit-

ically he had problems," said Lee Shin Bom, a spokesman for the governing Democratic Liberal Party.

One of those political problems was a proclivity for torture, as Mr. Lee discovered firsthand in the 1970s when he was detained and tortured several times. The worst was electric shock treatment, recalled Mr. Lee, who was once arrested for nothing more than possessing an article about Korea clipped from an American newspaper.

Yet Mr. Park, who was assassinated in 1979, today is buried in the national cemetery. A range of political parties send flowers to his grave, and even his old nemesis,

Kim Dae Jung, has visited his tomb.

Mr. Kim's tribute is particularly striking because Mr. Park tried to kill him. Mr. Kim, a dissident who ran against Mr. Park for president in 1971, was kidnapped while in Tokyo and apparently would have been executed if it had not been for American intervention.

One of the lessons of Mr. Park's renaissance in public opinion seems to be that the public is willing to forgive a good deal of a leader who presides over an economic boom.

Mr. Park took power when South Korea was barely more prosperous than India, and

he oversaw the economic takeoff that has transformed it into a modern industrializing country. Some scholars say he paradoxically contributed enormously to Korean democracy, despite his repression of democracy movements, for he nurtured an economic boom that created the middle class that is the backbone of Korean pluralism today.

To be sure, Mr. Park is hardly hailed as a national hero. There are no statues of him, no schools named for him. The cruelty of his rule is widely acknowledged.

Part of the reassessment of Mr. Park seems to reflect disenchantment with two of his successors as president, Chun Doo

Hwan and Roh Tae Woo, both of whom have been disgraced for corruption.

"I wouldn't say that there's a broad nostalgia for Mr. Park," said Lee Chul, a National Assembly member who as a student democracy leader was sentenced to death by the Park administration. "It's just that the public sees Chun and Roh, and they think that Park was better."

Mr. Park was a brilliant Japanese-trained major general when, in 1961, he overthrew the democratic — but chaotic — administration of Prime Minister Chang Myon. That precipitated more than three decades of rule by military leaders.

In 1979, in a dispute over how to handle demonstrations, Mr. Park insisted on using paratroopers to crush the protests. His intelligence director favored a softer line and tried to settle the disagreement by shooting Mr. Park dead.

"We criticized Park Chung Hee because we saw things through the prism of American democracy and human rights," said Lee Young Duk, an editor of the Chosun Ilbo, a Seoul newspaper. "But if we had had American democracy in the 1960s, would we have achieved this much? Perhaps Park Chung Hee's approach was better suited to the public consciousness of the time."

In Grozny, Horrors Rise to the Surface Hunt for Executed Goes On

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

GROZNY, Russia — Nodding politely to the excited men around him, his face an impassive mask, Hussein Khamidov calmly sized up a spectacle that would make most people gag.

Two corpses, apparently those of a young man and woman, had been unearthed from an unmarked pit behind a half-finished, abandoned cinder-block building. Bullet holes pocked the wall directly above the grave. Most of the flesh had rotted away from the corpses, but not all; hair still sprouted from one of the skulls.

"Looks like they were civilians and were shot right here, then dumped in the pit," said Mr. Khamidov, as onlookers gathered. "You can tell they were probably executed from the pillowcases over their heads."

It was the kind of ghastly scene that no longer surprises anyone in Grozny, where thousands of civilians died in the Russian assault early this year. But perhaps no one is less surprised than Mr. Khamidov, who spends much of his time checking out tips and tracking down atrocities like this one.

Mr. Khamidov, 42, is the Chechen official in charge of compiling lists of civilians re-

ported missing in the war and investigating reports of their whereabouts. More often than not, the people reported missing turn up as corpses.

He is a former airplane pilot who had spent his adult life, as best as he can remember, without ever having seen a corpse. But that all changed after the night of Jan. 24, when his sons, Saidem, 21, and Mohammed, 18, left to fetch water and never came home.

After months of searching for them, sifting through rumors and tips and scouring city neighborhoods and villages, Mr. Khamidov found their bodies in April. They were buried with three others in a village. Their hands and feet had been bound with wire, indicating they had been executed.

According to Mr. Khamidov, a Russian woman had witnessed their execution by Russian special forces, and she told him about it.

In the course of his search, Mr. Khamidov became known in Chechnya as a man who knew where bodies were buried. Dozens, then hundreds, of people approached him to ask his help in finding friends and relatives. In the last six months, he has helped exhume 56 sites where civilians killed in the war were buried without identification or ceremony.

"I've been doing this since April and so far I've found 910



A Russian Security Service truck hauling away a radioactive container found in Moscow. It had been buried near the entrance to one of the city's biggest and most heavily used parks on the orders of a Chechen rebel leader.

corpses, not counting these two," he said, pointing with his chin at the bodies unearthed next to the cinder-block wall. "A lot of the time we find them where a Russian military unit had been based. They nearly always left corpses behind."

The corpses are taken to a mosque where relatives can examine them. If they are not identified there, the bodies are photographed and registered for future identification.

Mr. Khamidov's work is far from finished. He knows of at least 18 more sites with corpses to be exhumed. Although it has been nine months since the Russians drove most of the Chechen guerrillas out

of Grozny in a fierce artillery and air bombardment, nearly 1,500 civilians who lived here and in nearby towns and villages are still listed as missing.

Radioactive Parcel

In a chilling new demonstration of just how committed Chechen separatists are to their war against Russia, a television news crew was directed by a rebel commander Thursday to a large radioactive parcel buried near the entrance to one of Moscow's biggest and most heavily used public parks, Michael Specter of The New York Times reported from Moscow.

The parcel, discovered in Izmailovsky Park in eastern Moscow, was buried exactly where Shamil Basayev, Chechnya's most notorious rebel military leader, told journalists from the Russian Independent Television Network to look.

"People these days say we are always bluffing," Mr. Basayev told the journalists in an interview filmed two weeks ago but only broadcast on Thursday. "They think we can no longer hurt the Russians. So we will give them a little sign of what we have. Consider it a small disarmament. But remember that we are completely prepared to commit acts of

terrorism that will be tangible for Russia."

Russian military, security and health experts closed off the park and nobody from any of those organizations would talk about what they found, so it was not clear how dangerous the parcel really was.

Although meters showed that the packet was emitting at least 100 times more radiation than is normally found in Moscow's air, nobody could be certain what the parcel contained or what it could do. Mr. Basayev said it was full of cesium, a radioactive substance that in certain isotopes can be produced as waste from atomic energy plants.

Berlusconi's Woes Stall Italy Reforms

By Daniel Williams
Washington Post Service

ROME — Legal troubles mounted again Friday for Silvio Berlusconi, the rightist former prime minister and television magnate who wants to run again for office but is mired in a long battle with prosecutors looking into his past business dealings.

The new charges are potentially politically disastrous: that Mr. Berlusconi's Fininvest conglomerate put about \$7 million into a Swiss bank account held by Bettino Craxi, the Socialist former prime minister.

Mr. Craxi, in exile to avoid an eight-year sentence for graft, is perhaps Italy's most despised former politician. Mr. Berlusconi himself has not been charged, although one of his business associates has.

Since taking power in April, 1994, Mr. Berlusconi has been linked with several other corruption inquiries. One looked into a supposed slush fund beyond the reach of tax collectors; another, alleged bribery of tax officers, on which Mr. Berlusconi faces trial next month.

While Mr. Berlusconi remains in politics and his legal fate is in limbo, it is hard to see how Italy can move toward political reform. Meanwhile, government remains in the hands of a cabinet of technocrats led by Prime Minister Lamberto Dini.

Despite his legal battles, Mr. Berlusconi remains a central figure of politics. When he appears on television, ratings soar. Italy's right has been reluc-

tant to jettison him, having ridden to power on his coattails. he is forced out of politics ways his supporters believe unfair, it may lead to a polarization of politics. Even the left must be careful not to appear to cash in too eagerly on his troubles.

The latest inquiry was made public by a team of Milan-based prosecutors who have headed an investigation of business and political corruption that has dismantled the core of Italy's post-World War II political leadership.

The first national election of the so-called Italian Second Republic produced a surprise victory by Mr. Berlusconi. But government collapsed in internal feuding and he himself has never escaped the shadow of prosecution.

For now, Mr. Berlusconi is breathing defiance, calling the prosecutors agents of a "police state" and demanding a curb on their powers.

Newspapers long antagonistic to him have called for him to leave politics. To drive the point home, several published pictures of him in smiling poses with Mr. Craxi, who fled to Tunisia to avoid jail.

The alleged bribe took the form of an elaborate 1991 transfer of about \$10 million to Mr. Craxi through offshore bank and companies, \$3 million of which was returned to Fininvest in 1992. Berlusconi has alleged that he was aided by government agents headed by Mr. Craxi building his media empire.

Louis Malle Dies, Film Director Was 63

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — Louis Malle, 63, one of the most enduring and varied directors of postwar cinema who won audiences and stirred controversy on both sides of the Atlantic, died Thursday.

Mr. Malle, the husband of the American actress Candice Bergen, died at the couple's home in California from lymphoma complication.

Mr. Malle brought freshness and sensitivity to subjects that ranged from the frivolous to the grim, showing himself unafraid to explore such taboo themes as incest, child prostitution and French collaboration with the Nazis during World War II.

Very much an actors' direc-

tor, he launched the screen career of Jeanne Moreau in the late 1950s and won wide acclaim for his work with children in such films as "Zazie dans le Métro" (1960) and "Au Revoir les Enfants" (1987).

His films covered virtually all genres, from thriller to spoof Western to absurdist comedy. Equally at home in French or English, he was one of the few French directors to win acclaim in the United States with a series of films including "Pretty Baby" (1977) and "Atlantic City" (1980).

Mr. Malle himself felt his best films were the ones that attracted most controversy, either for their explicit sexual themes or their unflinching ex-

amination of the past. "My ambition is not strictly to entertain," he said in an interview shortly after the 1992 release of "Damage," the story of an upper middle class British family destroyed by the insidious power of sexual passion.

"I'm always interested in an aspect of the truth which goes against preconceived ideas, including mine. So I end up working on material that often has something controversial about it," he said.

Louis Malle was born into a wealthy sugar-producing family in the northern town of Thumeries on Oct. 30, 1932.

Unlike many of his New Wave contemporaries who entered filmmaking via the radical

critical magazine Cahiers du Cinema, Mr. Malle hit the ground running when he was picked to help the explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau make an underwater documentary.

The result, "Le Monde du Silence" (World of Silence) remains a classic of its kind and won a clutch of prizes on its release in 1956.

His first feature, the atmospheric thriller "Ascenseur pour l'Echafaud" (Frantic), starring Miss Moreau and featuring music by Miles Davis, followed two years later and won the Prix du Jeune Cinéma.

The big breakthrough came, however, with "Les Amants" (The Lovers), starring Miss Moreau as a middle-class woman who discovers the emptiness of her life through a passionate sexual encounter.

It caused a sensation, and not a little controversy, for its candid exploration of sexuality that precluded many of the social changes of the 1960s. The film, imaginatively and sensually shot, made Mr. Malle and Miss Moreau famous.

Along with the New Wave luminaries Jean-Luc Godard and François Truffaut, Mr. Malle delighted in an iconoclastic rejection of classical filmmaking in favor of a radical new style.

In 1973, his film "Lacombe Lucien," about a peasant boy who sides with the Fascist authorities in Nazi-occupied France, sparked an anxious debate about extent of wartime collaboration.

Mr. Malle had blown apart a national myth that ordinary people all worked for the Resistance, a theme he was to explore again in the much lauded "Au Revoir les Enfants" about the betrayal of a Jewish schoolboy. (Reuters, AP)

Junior Walker Is Dead, Lead Motown Group

BATTLE CREEK, Michigan (AP) — Junior Walker, the leader of the Motown group Junior Walker and the All Stars, whose saxophone solos influenced musicians of many genres, died of cancer Thursday. He was 52 or 53 years old.

Mr. Walker was born Aubrey DeWalt Jr. in Blytheville, Arkansas in 1942, according to reference books. He started playing in Indiana in the mid-1950s before moving to Michigan and forming the All Stars, which recorded some of Motown's most enduring hits, including "Shotgun," "What Does It Take (To Win Your Love)," "How Sweet It Is" and "These Eyes."

BRIEFLY ASIA

Bangladesh's President Dissolves the Parliament

DHAKA, Bangladesh — President Abdur Rahman Biswas of Bangladesh dissolved Parliament on Friday night and asked Prime Minister Khaliqa Zia to stay until a general election is called.

Earlier, Begum Zia asked the president to dissolve Parliament because opposition groups had refused to take part in a by-election planned for Dec. 15. She said the Election Commission would make arrangements for holding a general election, which is not due until March but is expected to be held ahead of schedule.

Opposition parties resigned from Parliament last December, accusing the government of Begum Zia of rigging a by-election in 1994 and of sweeping corruption. They want her to step down and hand power to a neutral caretaker administration to hold free and fair elections. (Reuters)

Journalists' Jail Terms

JAKARTA — Two journalists jailed in September for their role in the Independent Journalists Alliance were given four months added to their sentences, for three years total, a Legal Aid Institute lawyer said Friday.

Although the sentence extension was not publicly announced, a Legal Aid lawyer, Sri Mumpuni, said the decision was read to her by the High Court on Friday.

Eko Maryadi and Achmad Taufik were found guilty of "publicly expressing feelings of enmity, hatred or insult against the government of Indonesia" in September and jailed for 32 months. (AFP)

Fast Ends in Dhaka

DHAKA, Bangladesh — The wife of a jailed former president has ended her week-long fast to press for better medical treatment for her ailing husband.

Hussain Mohammed Ershad, 65, was im-

prisoned in Dhaka's central jail four years ago for 13 years after a court found him guilty of abuse of power and corruption charges. A former army lieutenant general, Mr. Ershad seized power in a bloodless military coup in 1982, but was deposed by a pro-democracy movement eight years later.

His wife, Raushan Ershad, sipped lemon juice on Thursday to end her fast. "We assured her that we shall continue our movement to get Ershad freed from jail," said Modud Ahmed, a spokesman of Jatiya Dal. (AP)

Kashmir Hostage Plea

NEW DELHI — The relatives of four Westerners held hostage in Kashmir since early July renewed their appeal to their guerrilla captors on Friday to free them without delay.

"We do not understand why you still hold our innocent relatives hostage," the relatives said in an appeal to the Al Faran group. Their statement was released through the British High Commission in New Delhi.

Al Faran warned the Indian government on Thursday that it would soon regret its actions if it did not meet the organization's demands to release a group of 15 jailed Kashmiri separatists in return for the release of the hostages. (Reuters)

For the Record

China's reported plan to hold a military exercise near Taiwan on the eve of a Dec. 2 parliamentary election was intended to interfere in Taiwanese politics, the governing Nationalist Party said in Taipei. (Reuters)

A shipment of 5,000 blankets sent by the South Korean Red Cross to aid flood victims in North Korea has arrived in the North. A second shipment will follow shortly, officials said in Seoul. (AFP)

Thai authorities have arrested seven foreign women, from Ukraine, Chechnya and Denmark, on charges of prostitution. The women will be deported, immigration police officials said in Bangkok. (AFP)

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Peres's Progress

Israel moved impressively from its position of transition to the week as the Knesset voted its confidence in Prime Minister Shimon Peres and his revised cabinet. With the Likud opposition abating in a conciliatory gesture, only 31 negative votes were cast against the government.

The Nov. 4 assassination of Yitzhak Rabin by a rightist religious zealot has temporarily muted Israel's passionate internal debate about peace with the Palestinians. It has also strengthened the peace forces that Mr. Peres, like his martyred predecessor, represents.

The new prime minister's grace period likely to prove short. Important decisions on peace need to be made soon. A national election is due next year. Mr. Peres's real majority in the Knesset is 57. His real majority in the country will depend on winning the confidence of the Jewish majority as he accelerates the momentum of peace.

Mr. Peres has made a good start. Last week he made a high-profile visit to the West Bank. His speech to the Knesset on Wednesday presenting his new government included overtures to the settler and Orthodox communities. Mr. Peres pledged to maintain Israel's military strength and to use it whenever necessary. To back up this message, Mr. Peres made a former general, Ehud Barak, the foreign minister. He also included in his new cabinet an Orthodox rabbi, Yehuda Amital, and an independent-minded leader of the Labor Party's generation, Haim Ramon.

But reassuring nervous Israelis is only part of Mr. Peres's challenge. He has also to win credit from Palestinians for not let-

ting Mr. Rabin's murder delay the timetable for turning over authority in the West Bank city of Jenin and has responded to hints of new diplomatic flexibility from Syria by directly appealing to President Hafez Assad to lead the Arab world to a comprehensive regional peace.

The terms for transferring authority in the West Bank to Palestinians, including self-rule elections in January, were approved by Mr. Rabin and now simply need to be carried out on schedule. Negotiations begin next spring on the most difficult issues, including the future of Jewish settlements, security arrangements in Hebron and the status of Jerusalem. No final decisions on these issues are required or likely before the Israeli elections.

More immediate decisions about Syria may need to be taken if Mr. Assad means to negotiate seriously about exchanging Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights for full diplomatic relations. Without a deal with Damascus, Mr. Peres cannot achieve a comprehensive peace.

Genuine movement from Syria should get a favorable response. But Mr. Peres should not take a deal at any price. Mr. Assad has not come nearly as far as other Arab leaders in acknowledging the legitimacy of Israel or its leaders.

By the time of Israeli elections next November, Palestinian self-rule will probably be irreversible. But to go further, Labor will have to convince Israelis it deserves another term. Its chances will depend on how effectively Mr. Peres can consolidate and build on the sense of national unity and goodwill that has marked his first days.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

The Algerian Vote

Algeria's government needs to move if it is to take advantage of the imminent election returns earlier this month. The incumbent president, Liamine Zoual, won 61 percent of the vote, according to the government. More important, there was an enormous turnout of 95 percent, nearly 75 percent, again according to the government — in defiance of threats of death and mayhem from religious fundamentalist Islamic opposition organizations.

But that big vote was far from a simple endorsement of President Zoual and his record. Mr. Zoual, a former general, heads a military regime that has tried to challenge the religious fundamentalism with a vigorous campaign of repression by force.

The result has been something approaching civil war in which, over the past 10 years, 40,000 people have died. The election returns, in the judgment of most people who know the country, was less a vote for Mr. Zoual's past performance than a vote for peace and civility.

The Zoual government has argued that Algeria faces a sharply defined choice between it and an Islamic opposition trying to turn the country into another Iran. It doesn't have to believe the government's claim to the last decimal point to conclude that a large majority of Algerians voted. Since the supporters of fundamentalists were presumably following the strident calls to boycott the

election, the turnout alone indicates that they are a minority.

The government now has an opportunity to try to win over the broad middle of the electorate that favors neither military repression nor fundamentalist zealotry — and that is ready to take personal risks to exercise its democratic rights. One way to proceed would be to continue this experiment in democracy, unusual in the Arab world, by calling parliamentary elections.

Elections alone, unfortunately, are unlikely to bring serenity to a country in which the social tensions are as severe as in Algeria. The economy has been wretchedly mismanaged over the years, and income per capita has been falling steadily. Despite substantial oil revenues the country has run up staggering debts, and most of its very rapidly growing population under the age of 30 is unemployed. Religious fundamentalism is the result, not the cause, of these malfunctions.

They are evils that a narrow and heavily armed military regime such as the present government is poorly equipped to handle.

Mr. Zoual needs to show the people who voted for him that he understands that truth. He needs to move quickly to win over the broad center that these election returns suggest now exists in Algerian politics.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Next, Campaign Reform

When the hour finally arrived to vote, House of Representatives gave overwhelming approval last week to a strict ban on free meals, vacations and other perks for lobbyists.

The lopsided margin of victory — the vote was 422 to 6 — showed how powerful congressional reform has become as an issue.

With any luck the momentum generated by the gift-ban bill will carry forward to an even more important ethical reform, overhauling the entire system of campaign financing.

The House has been pushed to act on the Senate adopted a set of reforms on gifts last summer, but there were many obstacles along the way.

Among these was the House speaker, Mr. Gingrich, who never seemed any easier to change the perk-ridden culture of Washington than was his predecessor, Thomas S. Foley. Eventually, and to his credit, Mr. Gingrich paid attention to reformers and sponsored a ban that is even further than the Senate's.

Before the vote, he let the House consider a proposal to keep the current rules on gifts but to strengthen requirements for disclosure. It was only then that Mr. Gingrich's tougher proposal was passed. It needs no further approval by one else, since it applies only to the House. It will take effect on Jan. 1.

The ban will still allow members of the

House and their spouses to accept some food and travel, as long as it is associated with their official duties. Golf and tennis tournaments, even to help raise money for charity, will be out. But trips to give speeches to conventions and trips for fact-finding purposes will be allowed.

Just how the members of the House interpret these rules will have to be carefully monitored to make sure they do not become escape hatches for the kind of corrupt practices that have brought discredit to Congress in the past.

The House leadership was pushed into adopting reform because of the hard work of two Republicans, Christopher Shays of Connecticut and Linda Smith of Washington. They and a bipartisan group of legislators are now pushing for action on improving the system of campaign financing, which heavily favors incumbents.

The reformers have taken as their model a Senate measure that does not include the obvious remedy of public financing but would ban so-called "soft money," which both parties now raise in \$100,000 chunks from favor-seekers prohibited from giving directly to individual campaigns.

Mr. Gingrich wants to delay reform until a special commission reports its conclusions next summer. The impressive victory on banning gifts should persuade reformers to redouble their efforts to press for a speedier timetable.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Who's at Fault for Israel's Poisoned Political Debate?

Tarring the Right

By A.M. Rosenthal

NEW YORK — Natan Shtrasky is not a man given to foreboding. He suffered in the political cells of the Soviet gulag but endured, preserving not only his life but also his nerve and hope. He saw dreams become reality — freedom after nine hideous years in prison and work camps and now a role as leader of a new moderate and fiercely democratic party in Israel.

When the time came, after the gulag, for this man to write what he had learned, he chose these three words as his book title: "Fear No Evil."

But in New York the other day he talked of an evil he had never before contemplated: the emotional and political paralyzation of Israeli Jews.

Now, he said, what Israel needed above all was healing and reconciliation. Not with terrorists like the assassin of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, not with the people to whom the murderer is hero — nobody has to lecture Natan Shtrasky about that — but within the Israeli population, divided about how to achieve peace and security.

Nobody had doubted that reconciliation could be achieved by the democratic system. The assassin shook that faith. Now comes a new shock to the system, this time from inside it.

Right after the murder, it became known that a man called Avishai Raviv was the head of a small far-right group known as Eyal, to which the confessed killer belonged. He was arrested for not supplying the police with the suspicious he must have had about the assassin, but then released to house arrest.

Now it emerges that Mr. Raviv not only headed the group but helped organize it — as a paid agent of the Israeli secret police, Shin Bet, which reports to the office of the prime minister.

Maybe Shin Bet's idea was to gather some of the fanatics together the better to keep an eye on them. If so, obviously they did not eye the killer very closely.

And it develops, people in Israel say, that Mr. Raviv was also an agent provocateur against the leader of the opposition, Benjamin Netanyahu of Likud.

For more than a month Mr. Netanyahu was denounced in Israel and America for saying nothing while a poster showing Mr. Rabin as a Nazi was displayed at a Likud rally. He swore he had not seen the poster. He denounced it instantly when he heard about it.

But after the murder, the charges became accepted as fact in the U.S. and Israeli press — after all, the poster appeared in a TV shot. Mr. Netanyahu was accused of silently encouraging fanatics at the rally, and so having blood on his hands.

That poster, Israelis familiar with the issue say, was taken to the rally by Mr. Raviv. The TV cameraman says that Mr. Raviv showed him the poster and pushed him to take the picture.

It was seen all over Israel, but not at the

rally — a classic piece of propaganda frame-up, lying by lens.

After the poster appeared on TV, the first person the Shin Bet must have asked about it was their agent. Why did they or their civilian masters remain silent about the accusations against Mr. Netanyahu?

In New York, Mr. Shtrasky talked about Israelis who use Mr. Rabin's death to make scapegoats of Orthodox Jews. We talked about American Jews who used it to warn Jews that they had only one choice:

Accept the current plan for peace or begone from the company of decent Jews.

And he knew that it had been written in the United States that the killer was just an average religious hardliner who had heard Likud. Logically, we agreed, that would mean that the average person in a substantial segment of the Israeli public was a potential assassin.

Then there was another American Jewish intellectual who wrote that this was not a time for the "sham" of healing talk but for reckoning.

Will this continue in the United States, scapegoating by some Jews of others too religious, or too conservative, or both, for their tastes? Probably, I said. Politically conservative religious Jews were out of fashion even before the assassination. Now they are being lumped together as distasteful, dangerous clones — know one, know all.

Israel cannot afford that kind of thing, Mr. Shtrasky said, as heavily as I ever heard him talk. And later, when I called him about the Shin Bet affair, he said that Prime Minister Shimon Peres's priority should be to tear down the walls within Israel. No peace at home, none with neighbors, he said, and we let it go at that.

The New York Times.

The Right's Responsibility

By Shlomo Avineri

JERUSALEM — Israel is going through a deep agony in the wake of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Any democracy faced with violent political murder in the public square experiences a deep trauma.

But the agony in Israel is compounded because the self-confessed killer was justified his deed with arguments that are identical in language and context to positions expressed by mainline Israeli politicians on the right, not just by voices com-

referred only two weeks before the assassination to Labor Party activities as "the methods of Ceausescu."

It is this terrible wound, this poisoning of the public discourse, which has now to be healed, and not just the wound inflicted by the murder itself.

Furthermore, the government was depicted by opposition leaders as lacking legitimacy because its parliamentary majority included Arab Knesset members. This was constructed by Likud leaders such as Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Sharon to mean that it lacked a legitimate mandate, since it did not possess "a Jewish majority." Such racist language, utterly unacceptable in a democratic society, became the staple of opposition propaganda against government policies.

This must now be healed, and it cannot be healed by denying the depth of the wound. John F. Kennedy was killed by a lone and unstable individual whose politics remain murky until this very day. Yitzhak Rabin was murdered at a peace rally by a university student with an articulate political and religious philosophy.

While criminal guilt for the deed is obviously that of the perpetrator and his immediate accomplices, some of the moral responsibility lies squarely with those who depicted Mr. Rabin and his colleagues as traitors and Nazi-like collaborators.

It is for this devaluing of the discourse of Israel's democracy that Mr. Netanyahu and his colleagues have now to atone; their effort to depict themselves as victims of a witch-hunt is lamentable. There is no witch-hunt in Israel. There is the grief and agony of citizens stunned to find that some of the most respected political parliamentary leaders of the opposition supplied the intellectual and ideological ammunition that served the assassin.

The healing has to start with the realization that the atmosphere of politics in Israel has been polluted. Some religious leaders have already acknowledged that some of their previous statements may have contributed to the atmosphere of violence surrounding Mr. Rabin. Some Likud leaders, such as Dan Meridor and Benjamin Begin, have always been careful not to follow the more trenchant rhetoric and process of vilifying the government that have characterized the strategy of Mr. Netanyahu and some of his colleagues.

Their voices as well as those of moderate religious leaders will be crucial in putting Israel together again as a democratic society with civilized discourse and mutual tolerance.

The writer, a professor of political science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry in the first cabinet of Yitzhak Rabin, from 1976 to 1977. He contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

In 'Ultimate Fighting,' American Civilization Takes a Beating

By George F. Will

WASHINGTON — Here are some sounds of entertainment in a nation entertaining itself into barbarism:

- "I was hitting him to the brain stem, which is a killing blow, and when he covered up I'd swing back with upswings to the eye sockets with two knuckles and a thumb. There was no other place on his body you could hurt him."
- "There's the toe stomping!"
- "His tooth went flying out of the ring!"
- "There's an open thigh; he should do some punching."
- "He's going to snap his arm — he did, too!"

Those are words from a participant and some announcers involved in "ultimate fighting" or "extreme fighting," which involves two combatants in an octagonal pen, governed by minimal rules: no biting or eye gouging.

There are no rounds, no judges, no weight classifications. The man pounding the brain stem and eye sockets was fighting a 650-pound, or 295-kilogram, wrestler. The combatants fight until one is unconscious, disabled or taps the canvas, signaling surrender. The referee's job is to watch for the tapping, occasionally summon a doctor to see if a participant can continue, and exhort the combatants to pour it on.

Six states have permitted such a spectacle. One permissive state is enough to make this a flourishing amusement on pay-per-view television. Three months ago about 300,000 subscribers paid \$20 each to see the seventh Ultimate Fighting Championship.

More such events are coming, but if Americans can't wait, the

neighborhood video store probably offers cassettes of some ultimate fighting events like the one in which a man's face was pounded to a pulp while he crawled across the canvas, leaving a broad smear of blood. Especially memorable is slow-motion footage from an overhead camera showing a man pounding the face of a pinned opponent. Afficionados savor full-force kicks to faces and elbows smashed into temples.

Participants in these events are frightening, but less so than the paying customers. They include slack-jawed children whose parents must be cretins, and raving adults whose ferocity away from the arena probably does not rise above muttering at meter maids.

Senator John S. McCain 3d, Republican of Arizona, a former

naval aviator who was a boxer at Annapolis and spent more than five years being tortured as a prisoner by the North Vietnamese, knows appropriate manliness and is exhorting governors and local officials to ban "extreme fighting" events because they pose "an unacceptable risk to the lives and health of the contestants."

To the objection that the contestants are "consenting adults," Senator McCain, arguing within the severe limits imposed by American society's respect for choice, contends that the consent may be somehow illusory. He says that perhaps a contestant is "driven by profits or the enticements of publicity associated with it and unknowingly is placing his or her life at risk."

To which libertarians respond: If you ban being driven by profits and enticed by publicity, what remains of modern life? Besides, no one has yet been killed in "extreme fighting," which is more than can be said for boxing.

Although in one letter to a governor Mr. McCain says he is "solely" concerned with damage done to combatants, he also worries about the "glorification of cruelty," which raises the problem of virtue: What do we want government to do in the name of that?

The historian Macaulay, disdaining the Puritans, said they banned bearbaiting not because it gave pain to bears but because it gave pleasure to spectators. The

Washington Post Writers Group.

Putting an Emu in Every Pot

By Guy Gugliotta

WASHINGTON — Remember "emu," "rhea" and "ratite" — those great words without which no crossword puzzle would be complete? It turns out these creatures are useful for something besides one-act "flightless birds."

One thing you can do is eat them — and they're real tasty, according to a study conducted by the American Emu Association in Dallas: "Broiled emu fan fillet, flar fillet and mild drum had sensory characteristics very similar to broiled U.S. DA-choice rib-eye beef steak."

So during the holidays, why not forget the turkey, duck or goose? Go with a bigger bird for a bigger appetite.

Maybe not: "I don't think you would take the entire carcass in lieu of the turkey," said Pierce Allman, the American Emu Association's director. But, "take the fan fillet or the oyster fillet, marinate it and sear, barbecue or grill it — it makes an excellent London broil," he said. "Other cuts are great in stew, or you can make fajitas, stir-fry or chili — or a low-fat emu dog."

The Agriculture Department's Food Safety and Inspection Service has announced it will allow emu and rhea slaughterhouses to hire agency inspectors to eyeball carcasses and give them the government stamp of approval.

That program will start as soon as standards are established. You have to know what you're looking at before you can look at it.

The emu is one of five animals known as ratites — flightless birds. The biggest are ostriches, at 350 to 400 pounds (160 to 180 kilograms). Next come emus, at 100 to 140 pounds, followed by rheas, cassowaries and kiwis. Ostriches are from South Africa, rheas from Argentina, and emus, cassowaries and kiwis from Australia and New Zealand.

Ostriches have been around the United States the longest, cultivated first for their feathers, but "with the invention of the automobile and high-speed train, the plumes blew off ladies' hats," said Doug Kayser, president of the Mid-Atlantic Ostrich Association. "That industry went down the tubes."

But in the 1990s, cholesterol- and fat-conscious consumers around, why not raise ratites? They are low-fat, low-cholesterol red-meat animals, with high tolerance for climate change.

Mr. Kayser, a cattle rancher east of Pittsburgh, dropped his herd five years ago, converted to ostriches and now has 300. It is not true they stick their heads in the sand, Mr. Kayser said the

has no sand), and they "convert forage to lean red meat very effectively."

Emus entered the world 50,000 years ago in what is now Western Australia. They became the all-purpose animal of the aborigines, and even today they are "95 percent usable," said Mr. Allman of the American Emu Association.

Each one has 25 to 35 pounds of meat and a gallon of emu oil that can be used as a moisturizer, a rub for sore shoulders and possibly for burn treatment, Mr. Allman said.

General Motors uses the feathers to polish wheels in Cadillac assembly, and Mr. Allman said you can eat the eggs, about the size, shape and color of a large avocado, "although most people don't."

Mr. Allman said the United States has 8,000 to 10,000 emu ranchers, mostly on small farms — about a million birds in more than 43 states.

Emu Association members last year described the birds as "playful, curious and docile" in a survey.

When the survey asked farmers to list the industry's positive attributes, "emus are likable birds" finished second.

Unfortunately for the emus, "chance to earn a good living" finished first.

The Washington Post



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Canadians To Cut Out Prime-Time U.S. Shows

Reviews
TORONTO — The Canadian Broadcasting Corp. announced that it would stop broadcasting all prime-time U.S. programming next season, including hit situation comedies.

As part of a move to cut costs and strengthen domestic programming, Canada's national broadcaster said funds now spent on four American sitcoms would be redirected to domestic producers, many of them independent.

Hollywood's programs "deliver large audiences and generate about \$2.50 for every dollar we spend on them. But the price we pay isn't just monetary," Perrin Beatty, the CBC president, said Thursday. "It can also be measured in reduced distinctiveness in what is perhaps the most competitive television environment on earth."

The sitcoms "Fresh Prince of Bel Air," "The Nanny," "Can't Hurry Love" and "Central Park West" will all fall prey to Mr. Beatty's ax in the fall of 1996.

The four sitcoms drew fire from Canadians earlier this year after the government announced funding cuts of 350 million Canadian dollars (\$260 million) over the next three years to the publicly funded corporation's budget of 1.07 billion dollars.

Anxious to protect a cherished institution sometimes described as the "glue" that sticks a vast nation together, many Canadians urged the national broadcaster to kill the U.S. productions even though they account for just two and a half of the 20 hours of Canadian prime time programming each week.

"While we're strongly dedicated to our own news and current affairs shows, nearly three-quarters of all the time English-speaking viewers spend in front of their TV sets is spent watching American programs," Mr. Beatty said.

"Those are not the kind of realities that bode well for the future of a distinct Canadian culture or an independent Canada," he said.



GONE FISHING — Lebanese port employees trying their luck Friday at something other than work as they took part in a two-day strike after contract talks broke down.

U.S. Diplomacy: A Mixed Message Beirut Is Urged to Buy Planes, but Travel Ban Stays

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Ever since he took office in early 1993, Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher has said the State Department under his stewardship will be a vigorous advocate of U.S. business interests abroad. Last month, Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri of Lebanon got a harsh lesson in what that policy means in practice.

We are not going to lift the long-standing ban on travel to Lebanon by U.S. citizens, the State Department told him. But by the way, we do want to make sure our aircraft manufacturers get fair consideration when your national airline replaces its fleet.

Although both messages were delivered to Mr. Hariri by a U.S. diplomat who was following instructions in a cable approved by Mr. Christopher, State Department officials said the two issues were unconnected and that the department was not telling the Lebanese that buying U.S. planes is the price

of getting the travel ban lifted.

"It is not our policy to link these two issues," a State Department official said. "One policy is, we promote exports; the other is that we do not want Americans to go to Lebanon. They are not linked."

The Lebanese, however, have concluded that there is a direct linkage, according to a Lebanese official familiar with the bilateral discussions on this issue.

"We were told it would help ease the ban if our airline chose Boeing or another American manufacturer to supply new planes," he said. "It would help us to help you, they said at State and Commerce, too."

Mr. Hariri wanted the State Department to lift a ban on travel to Lebanon by Americans imposed 10 years ago so that so the Time-Warner Inc. "Newstour" of corporate executives could visit Beirut. It would have been a big psychological boost for Mr. Hariri's campaign to rebuild Lebanon and its image to have the chief executives of such companies as General Motors, Po-

laroid, Lockheed Martin and Equitable Life be seen touring his capital.

Forget it, the State Department said. Lebanon is still too dangerous for Americans, even though its civil war ended years ago, because the place is full of terrorists. At least in part because of State Department objections, Time-Warner dropped Beirut from the itinerary, which included Cuba and Vietnam.

In a cable to the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Mr. Christopher directed the senior U.S. diplomat there to respond to Mr. Hariri's disappointment by telling him that while Washington "strongly supports Lebanon's continuing reconstruction and reconciliation," the travel ban could not be lifted because "we continue to believe that Lebanon remains unsafe for Americans."

And while he was delivering that message, the U.S. diplomat was instructed to tell Mr. Hariri that "notwithstanding your disappointment," Washington expected Lebanon and its national air carrier, Middle East Airlines, to give "full and fair con-

sideration to any bids by U.S. aircraft manufacturers to replace the MEA fleet and that any such bids will be judged on their merits."

Before Lebanon's civil war erupted in 1975, Middle East Airlines was the pre-eminent Arab carrier between the Middle East and Europe. The war frequently closed Beirut International Airport, marginalized Beirut as a travel destination and connecting point, destroyed some of MEA's planes, and prevented modernization of the fleet.

Now, according to the MEA chairman, Khaleel M. Salameh, the airline is "looking to see which manufacturer will offer us the best financial package" to pay for the purchase of 14 or 15 planes to replace the aged fleet of Boeing 747s and other obsolete fuel-guzzlers. Mr. Salameh said the airline expected to spend about \$1.2 billion on aircraft purchases when it could obtain financing.

In 1985, when Americans were being kidnapped and held hostage by extremist groups in Lebanon, President Ronald Reagan signed an executive order prohibiting U.S. citizens from going there, barring MEA from flying to the United States and prohibiting airlines serving both countries, such as Swissair, from writing tickets in the United States for travel to Lebanon.

Lebanese-American groups such as the Washington-based American Task Force for Lebanon have been lobbying for years to get the bans lifted, but so far they have won only a slight modification allowing non-U.S. citizens to buy connecting tickets in the United States.

In a Sept. 13 letter to Senator Spencer Abraham, a Michigan Republican who is of Lebanese descent, Assistant Secretary of State Wendy Sherman wrote that the travel ban would remain in effect because "terrorist groups resident in Lebanon have a demonstrated capacity to kidnap and murder U.S. citizens, visitors and temporary residents."

Enforcement Reduces Illegal Crossings From Mexico

By Sam Dillon
New York Times Service

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico — Victor Covarrubias knows Mexico's northern border well. He has waded the Rio Grande here many times, slipping past the Border Patrol as he heads north to America's pepper harvests or construction sites where \$6 an hour is 15 times what he can earn back home.

But this week Mr. Covarrubias, who has crossed the border at many different points, found that it has changed. For several days, he tried to cross the river from Juarez into El Paso, only to have U.S. agents block his advance again and again.

Finally he hired a coyote, a people-smuggler who promised to lead him across the river along a secret route and put him on a plane to Dallas for \$400. But that was a swindle, and although Mr. Covarrubias

did finally make it to the United States, agents detained him before he got close to his plane.

Although thousands of illegal migrants still cross parts of America's 2,000-mile (3,200-kilometer) southwest border virtually unhindered, others are finding that, since enforcement has been tightened along some stretches, it is no longer an easy matter.

It has become so difficult to breach the border south of Juarez or San Diego, which until recently accounted for 60 percent of illegal crossings, that after repeated failures, some migrants, like Mr. Covarrubias, have exhausted their resources.

And thousands of other Mexicans are now weighing a complex equation of transportation costs, wages and logistical risks before trying to migrate north. A recent study by Jorge A. Bustamante, a prominent Mexican demographer, concluded

that despite Mexico's wrenching depression, illegal immigration to the United States decreased somewhat this year because tightened enforcement greatly increased the costs.

The study appears to support an assumption underlying a crackdown by the Immigration and Naturalization Service: If the authorities make illegal border crossings sufficiently difficult and costly, some people will quit trying.

"As long as there are huge wage disparities between Mexico and the United States, you'll have a continuing flow," said Robert Bach, an executive associate commissioner at the Immigration Service. "But what Bustamante is showing, and what we believe, is that our increased enforcement has begun to tip the economic balance. For many workers, it's become too expensive to come north."

Several respected re-

searchers dispute Mr. Bustamante's conclusions. Frank D. Bean, a demographer at the University of Texas at Austin, for instance, has concluded that in the last year not only Mexico's economic crisis but also strong job growth in the United States have helped increase illegal border crossings, though he adds, "It's not the mammoth phenomenon that some people are saying it is."

About 40 percent of the illegal Mexican migrants apprehended each year have tried to cross from Tijuana, south of San Diego; 20 percent have come from Juarez.

Until recently, these borders were out of control, with thousands of migrants racing across the line each day and U.S. agents pursuing them through

railroad sidings and suburban pads.

Two years ago, however, the Border Patrol put 400 agents at 100-yard intervals for 22 miles along the border in the area of El Paso, forming a virtual human barricade.

One year ago, along the border running east from Imperial Beach, California, the authorities built a 14-mile steel fence, installing searchlights and motion detectors and fielding hundreds of new agents.

This year, new agents have also been deployed south of Tucson, Arizona. With \$236 million in additional funds, the Border Patrol increased the number of agents along the 2,000-mile line from Brownsville, Texas, to Imperial Beach to about 5,000 from un-

der 4,000. But even as the Border Patrol has offered new deterrents, the Mexican and U.S. economies have provided powerful incentives for migrants to go north.

Last December's peso devaluation cut Mexican wages in half and threw millions of Mexicans out of work. There has been a surge in American jobs.

In the wake of these factors, the number of illegal migrants apprehended by the Border Patrol surged by 30 percent, from 979,101 in the fiscal year 1994 to 1,271,390 in 1995.

"It's overwhelmingly clear that the number of undocumented migrants has declined," Mr. Bustamante said. "That's largely due to the increase in the numbers of border agents."

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ART

The Treasures of a Lost Buddhist World

By Michael Gibson
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — About 130 years ago, for the first time in centuries, European travelers began to venture deep into the tremendous Taklimakan and Gobi deserts extending westward from China and northward from Tibet — a spectacular and inhospitable region archaeologists refer to as Sérendia.

A small number of surprising objects these adventurous men brought back with them prompted archaeologists to prick up their ears and follow in hot pursuit. Most notable was a Buddhist scroll written on birch bark. Experts dated it around the second century, making it the oldest Buddhist manuscript in existence. The archaeologists, in turn, reaching these eroded hills populated by subsistence farmers, came upon lost cities, crumbling temples, Buddhist monasteries and frescoed caves. In one instance, a single walled-up cave turned out to be a veritable Qumran of Buddhism, yielding 40,000 precious manuscripts. A small but highly significant part of this material is the object of a 300-item exhibition at the Grand Palais, "Sérendia. Terre de Bouddha" through Feb. 19.

Most of the objects, on loan from St. Petersburg, London, Berlin, Seoul, Nara, Tashkent, Dushanbe and other places — delicate manuscripts, paintings on silk, clay sculptures and mural paintings, many of stunning beauty — were brought back by such scholars as the brilliant young Frenchman Paul Pelliot (who was only 27 at the time), the Hungarian-born Sir Mark Aurel Stein, the Germans Albert Grünwedel and Albert von Le Coq or the Russian Dimitri Klementz, during the first decade of this century.

It was soon acknowledged that they had discovered a forgotten nexus of civilization that had first flourished 2,000 years ago in a belt of oases passing north and south of the terrible waste and grandly described as kingdoms: Khotan, Kashgar, Kucha, Turfan, Loulan and Dunhuang.

Inhabited at first by an Indo-European

population, the oases were taken over by constantly turning tides of Tibetans, Uighurians and Chinese.

Through them passed not only the traders of the Silk Route, braving the bandits who occasionally took them for ransom or robbed them and slit their throats, but also lone Buddhist monks carrying precious cargoes of scrolls in their backpacks, white-robed Manichean sages from Iran and austere Nestorian clerics who founded Christian monasteries even in remote Tibet.

Ten centuries later, the advances of Islam and the weariness with which the Chinese thereafter viewed the turbulent world to the west of the Great Wall led to the decline of these towns. They were ultimately abandoned and lay forgotten for close to 1,000 years.

The Manichean trove was a boon for historians who knew little about that vanished religion beyond what such adversaries as St. Augustine had reported. But much had been irretrievably lost in the decade preceding the discoveries. Le Coq experienced the ultimate archaeologist's nightmare in 1904 when a peasant told him how he had demolished a Manichean temple a few years earlier to make way for a field. Yes, it had been full of illuminated manuscripts, but the writing had struck him as sinister so he had taken the whole lot, five wagon loads of books, and dumped them into the river.

BUT Sérendia was above all the key vector for the development and propagation of Buddhism to China. The celebrated Chinese monk Xuanzang traveled through Khotan on his way to India in the seventh century. He had set out in search of Buddhist sources, remained in India to study for many years, finally returning to China with a great store of books, relics and statues. A ninth-century painting on silk depicts just such a figure of a monk striding through the waste, weighed down by an enormous hamper full of scrolls and escorted by a vigilant tiger.

The emperor summoned Xuanzang on

his return, heard him and commanded a report on his travels that survives to this day. His exploit also gave birth to that great Chinese classic, the *Si Yeu Ki* or "Journey West" in which the monk and his motley escort (including the Monkey King), brave tigers, dragons and monsters in pursuit of their sacred quest.

The local people were Buddhist at the time. When Marco Polo passed through Khotan five centuries later, on his way east, he noted that the inhabitants "worshiped Mohammed."

Both esoteric Tibetan and Manichean influences are discerned in a splendid, ninth-century painting on silk depicting the doomed efforts of the forces of evil led by Mara to prevent Sakaymuni from reaching enlightenment. The painter displays imaginative resources worthy of Hieronymus Bosch in portraying monsters from hell assailing the serene figure seated in the lotus position in the middle of the painting.

Experts may be ecstatic about the material, which is of crucial historical importance, and enthralled by the exhibition, which allows them to compare objects now preserved in museums in various parts of the world, but even those who are not familiar with the daunting intricacies of the Buddhist pantheon cannot but be stirred by the beauty of many of these paintings and sculptures, and touched by the pathos of time which all but wiped out the memory of a crucial moment in the history of Asia.

The extreme aridity of the climate nonetheless preserved such frail objects as a sutra scroll on yellow silk, dating from the fifth century, that has come down to us in state of incredible, pristine freshness. The frescoes have suffered from the depredations of farmers who fancied them as fertilizer, but poignantly beautiful seventh- or eighth-century fragments brought back from Kizil or Shorchuk, with their subtle colors and flowing draftsmanship, once again demonstrate that there is no such thing as progress in art but an almost timeless constant to which all true artists refer.

The exhibition will be at the Metropolitan Museum in Tokyo, April 20 to July 7.



Head of bodhisattva, fragment of sixth century statue.

Sculptured wood Buddha, seventh or eighth century, from Turfan.

The Cologne Art Marathon: A Bloated Sign of Uncertain Times

By David Galloway

COLOGNE — The 29th installment of Art Cologne, the oldest and biggest fair for the art of this century, drew to a close with neither a bang nor a whimper. The finale was more like a prolonged sigh of relief from the 349 galleries from 22 countries who had endured the 10-day marathon.

The decision to extend the gig to cover two weekends may have seemed a clever marketing ploy,

yet it fueled criticism that the annual event has simply become too big for its britches. One television journalist totted up 10,000 individual works on view before abandoning his arithmetic. Predictions that the extended run would boost attendance figures to the magical threshold of 100,000 remained unfulfilled; instead, they nudged upward from last year's "record-breaking" 72,000 to this year's "record-breaking" 81,000.

According to Düsseldorf's Hans Mayer, one of the fair's founding fathers, the visual

bombardment was so great that "Many visitors had the feeling they were going blind." London's redoubtable Annely Juda complained that some of her regular customers became so weary they never found the way back to her stand. One of the few euphoric responses came from Karsten Greve, who maintains galleries in Paris, Milan and Cologne. The extended fair, he argued, "made it possible to talk more seriously with collectors, who could then take more time to make their own informed decisions."

Greve's enthusiastic appraisal of this year's fair is shared by his bookkeeper, who registered sales ranging from 18,000 to 2 million Deutsche marks for such contemporary "classics" as Gerhard Richter, Cy Twombly and Jannis Kounellis. And despite the many visitors who went astray in the mazes of Art Cologne, Annely Juda reported substantial sales — including a superb portrait bust, at 145,000 DM (about \$100,000), by the Japanese sculptor Katsura Funakoshi, who overlays his startling realism with the bizarre and enigmatic. And for 350,000 DM, the Von Braunheims gallery of Munich found a buyer for a canvas by Germany's greatest living abstractionist, Emil Schumacher.

Generally, prices have remained stable — even stagnant, as some would have it. But Düsseldorf's Hans Strelow seemed to express a majority opinion when he remarked that "We must take leave of the spectacular sales of the '80s and become accustomed to selling a larger number of works at lower prices." That view was seconded by the Paris gallerist Anne Lahure, whose pared-down presentation of concrete art — including works by Vasarely and Jean Michel Gasquet — brought a substantial profit,

though prices ranged from a modest 1,950 to a top of 38,000 DM. She thus echoed the general tendency, which averaged out at 15,000 DM for bread-and-butter sales.

Nonetheless, the majority of exhibitors certainly failed to recoup their investment. Many of those, however, seemed happy enough to have taken the risk. Like any trade fair, Art Cologne is a forum for the exchange of information and direct sales may be far less important than the fresh contacts and impulses gathered there. But information has to be processed, and Art Cologne is plainly in danger of becoming the art collector's megamart. The bloated format is a sign of uncertain times. A decade ago, when a trend-setting gallerist might dispose of his entire stock on opening night, wooing the public was hardly a concern. The bearish market of the 1990s plainly calls for new tactics, yet there is no common agreement on effective strategies. Some established gallerists — like Cologne's Winfried Reckermann — boycotted this year's extravaganza and are already pressing for a smaller, more exclusive alternative in 1996.

Such a reduction would almost certainly be at the expense of young, unconventional galleries which often serve as test-

ing grounds for new ideas and may well attract a new generation of collectors.

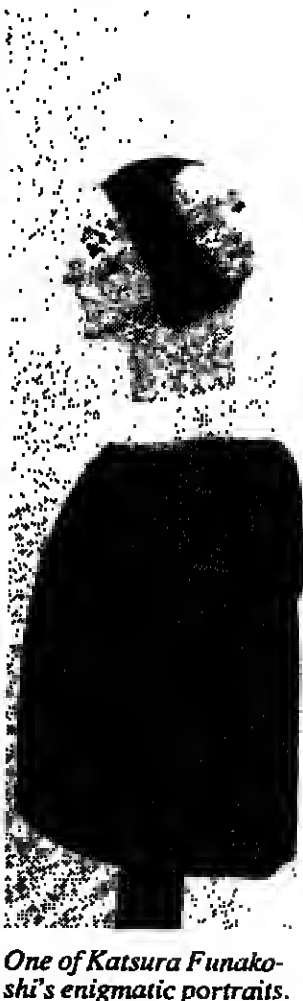
Indeed, it was the hope of capitalizing on this potential that led to the fair's dramatic expansion. Two years ago, a group of younger gallerists broke away from the official venue to inaugurate their own "Unfair." Last year, Art Cologne added a new hall to accommodate the anti-salon, thus contributing youthful flair to the main event but inevitably diminishing the mavericks' subversive drive.

NONETHELESS, the highways and byways of the new hall have continued to draw a conspicuously younger public, as well as established collectors who have long bought with their eyes instead of their ears. Such art-watchers were also drawn to the 28 stands, scattered throughout the fair, where unestablished artists were given space to display their achievements as part of Art Cologne's sponsorship program. Here, prices rarely exceed 7,000 DM. These solo presentations reconfirmed an anything-goes aesthetic visible throughout the fair. Whether the "nontrend" trend is the healthy reflection of a pluralistic society or the sign of aesthetic indeterminacy,

even of a certain decadence, is a question that can scarcely be answered in this century, but the fact remains that the individual, even idiosyncratic, expression currently dominates the scene. Nonetheless, two related tendencies can be observed: a new attention to the human body and a renewed commitment to figuration. Both contribute to a heightened interest in photography, which was represented not just by such specialist gallerists as Heidi Reckermann of Cologne or the Parisian dealer Alain Paviot, but repeatedly cropped up at galleries that have previously focused on painting and sculpture.

The return to figuration by no means suggests a uniformity of styles. These range from the expressive depictions of guns and money in the heavily impastoed canvases of Peter Thol to the mouth-watering trompe l'oeil studies of peaches, plums and pears by Karin Kniefel. In sculpture, too, the figurative idiom finds varied application: from Katsura Funakoshi's enigmatic portraits to the miniature clay figures that Johannes Zielke composed into a study of "Faith."

David Galloway is an art critic and free-lance curator based in Wuppertal, Germany.



One of Katsura Funakoshi's enigmatic portraits.

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The Other Chinese Miracle: A Renaissance of Painting



Detail of "Landscape of Guilin," 1944, by Zhao Shuo'ang.

HONG KONG — Forget about China's economic prowess. The greater Chinese miracle, when looked at by the cultural historian, is the renaissance of its age-old art, painting, now rising to heights unsuspected by the outside world.

Some idea of it can be gathered from the first show to give an overview of the subject, "Twentieth Century Chinese Painting: Tradition and Innovation," at the Hong Kong Museum of Art until Jan. 14, will later travel to Singapore, London and Cologne. Put together at the instigation of the jewelry designer and art collector Kai-Yin Lo and organized by the Hong Kong Urban Council, it reveals how an art that seemed to be at the end of its tether revived when confronted with the Western models that acted as a catalyst.

Direct influence was on the whole sterile. One of the early works, by Gao Jianfu, was done during the transitional period when the Chinese went to study in Japan, where many had their first exposure to Western art. Gao registered at the Tokyo Institute of Art in 1906. Twenty years later, he painted "The Five-Storey Pavilion." With its red sunset and gray haze, it almost looks like chinoiserie in Barbizon school style.

OTHER direct borrowings from the West resulted in a wide range of kitsch with a Chinese twist. Liu Kuifeng's picture of two Aisatian dogs with a blossoming rosebush in the background is a typical product of the genre. Others deal with Chinese themes handled in naturalistic fashion, like Gao Qifeng's "Monkeys and Snowy Pine" done in 1916.

It took decades for the renewal process to get started. In 1944, Zhao Shuo'ang painted his admirable "Landscape of Guilin." Rhythmic touches of black ink stand for tiny bushes climbing mounds and peaks seen in a maroon haze, as if in a

dream. The shading and faint suggestion of depth and volume draw on Western sources, but the artistic vision remains essentially Chinese.

Fu Baoshi who went to Japan in 1933 and became a noted historian of Chinese painting after returning in 1935, conceived in that same year, 1944, another highly original landscape betraying the assimilation of a Western legacy.

Mountainous masses are covered by unkempt growth rendered in vigorous nervous brushstrokes. These are very Chinese.

SOURIN MELIKIAN

but they cover the surface almost entirely, blurring their linear quality which brings it closer to the European mode. Right at the top, a mountain crest appears through the mist, without relating to the rest of the composition. It is a Chinese motif handled in faintly Europeanizing fashion.

Such a contradiction is nothing compared with the tumultuous itinerary of Zhang Daqian whose multiple phases call for comparison with Picasso in the context of Western art. Zhang too went to Japan, albeit to the capital of traditionalism, Kyoto. A passionate collector, he became highly regarded for his connoisseurship in ancient masters.

Yet, when Zhang composed a "Landscape in the Style of Juran" in 1944, he allowed Western influence to color his intended homage to the past. In the lower corner left, a river zigzags between banks covered with clumps of fir trees grouped in the Western manner.

The way in which the artist spreads wash with his brush also betrays the European impact. By then, traditional painting in China was a spent force. It could not continue unadorned other than as an empty pastiche. Zhang's "Stealing the Lanting Manuscript by Tricky," done in neo-Tang style after a visit to the caves of Dunhuang, proves the point.

Occasionally, the artist indulged in appalling kitsch. Chinese style, as in "Ladies," Zhang was stuck in a rut. He might have stayed there, had he not emigrated to the Western hemisphere — the United States, then Brazil — and spent long years there. By the early 1980s, he was producing his best works, not remotely related to his earlier period. "Lotus" done in 1981, could not have been conceived without the artist's exposure to all kinds of Western art forms. From Odilon Redon's pastels to Monet's "Waterlilies."

Yet, it is fundamentally Chinese, with the calligraphic dash to its sinuous stalks and shadowy blossoms swaying across a gray haze. Two red lilies, off center, are descended from early Chinese painting, revisited with a renewed sense of color.

Most remarkable are the works of masters who wandered far afield and later rediscovered the Chinese tradition. Wang Jiqian, born in 1907, has been living in the United States since 1949. A famous collector, with an ability to execute paintings in the style of the great masters of the past, reputedly indistinguishable from the originals, he started producing his finest gems in his old age. In 1986, Wang did a landscape in a square format, very Chinese in spirit, if only in its insistent outline, in which the dramatic sense of color value owes much to the West.

Of all those who thus rediscovered and rethought the Chinese tradition in their own terms, no case is as extraordinary as that of Wu Guanzhong to whom a separate one-man show is devoted.

Born in 1919 into a poor rural family, Wu knew little about the Chinese tradition cultivated by the literati when he went to France in 1947 to study at the Beaux Arts. His training in Western oil painting under masters influenced by Cubism and Expressionism could have cut him off forever from Far Eastern aesthetics. Wu returned to China as a mild Western-style modernist. This soon put him at odds with the authorities. The Cultural Revolution was traumatic-

ing for Wu. The painter spent three years in hard labor before returning to Beijing in 1973. The healing process took a long time, during which he increasingly turned to the Chinese technique of painting in ink on paper while traveling feverishly all over China.

Around 1983, Wu painted his first masterpiece, "Chinese Cypress," a linear composition, subtle and intricate, is purely Chinese, but unlike any known style. Wu was reinventing the Chinese tradition. He rethought landscapes in pictographic form. "Mending the Net" is a conceptual rendition of a figural subject — a huge black swirl, white emptiness, tiny specks of color.

A visit to the United States in 1989 took him to Yosemite National Park. "Giant Sequoia," on the thin edge separating figural suggestion from abstraction, is all about line, movement and the power of black ink set off by white and sparse touches of color.

A SECOND ordeal, the illness of his wife in 1992, caused a year-long interruption in Wu's work. When he resumed it, he painted "In the Forest." The close-up view of thick black trunks appearing between white patches, with almond green specks rhythmically distributed, is in a totally new style. It is also one of the artist's most remarkable works.

Wu is the van Gogh of Chinese art, but a van Gogh who finally won recognition. The British Museum one-man show organized in 1992 by Anne Farrer with the energetic backing of Kai-Yin Lo raised him on a pedestal. Wu truly ranks among the masters of this century.

With a few other painters as yet unknown outside China, such as the stunning Shi Lu, Wu leaves no doubt that one of the world's great art schools is soaring once again, making Western contemporary painting look puny by comparison.



Detail of "Pines at Mount Hua," 1972, by Shi Lu.

America Gets a Look at London's Swinging Art Scene of the '80s

By Roberta Smith
New York Times Service

MINNEAPOLIS — "Brilliant! New Art from London!" at the Walker Art Center is the first American museum exhibition to celebrate the reinvigorated London art scene. This scene began to be the envy of the contemporary art world in the late 1980s. It was then that a new generation of artists, led by a promotionally savvy sculptor Damien Hirst, took matters into its own hands.

Starting with a 1988 show called "Freeze," they staged a series of impromptu exhibitions in the run-down Docklands area of London, and were soon demonstrating a taste for the startling in materials, subjects and techniques that often verged on the sensational.

Their aim, if one could be identified, seemed to be to connect art directly to life without passing Go, and to "epater" the bourgeoisie as much as possible.

By the early 1990s, for example, Hirst had floated a dead 14-foot shark in a tank of formaldehyde; Marc Quinn had made a portrait bust of himself in frozen blood (his own); Rachel Whiteread had cast the room of a Victorian house in plaster, titling it "Ghost," and Charles Saatchi, the advertising mogul and omnivorous collector of new art, had acquired all three works for his collection.

A new generation of collectors and dealers and an exceptional art magazine named Frieze emerged. Hirst and several colleagues became accustomed to having the merits of their work argued vehemently in

London's daily newspapers, and a second wave of artists appeared in pursuit.

Most startling among these were the brothers Jake and Dinos Chapman, who specialize in grafting extra genitals onto meticulously reworked mannequins and who have also re-created life-size sculptures based on the violent depictions of death and torture in Goya's "Disasters of War." London entered its own version of the 1980s, about a decade behind schedule.

The Walker show, which has been organized by the curator Richard Flood, gets credit for tackling a large and lively subject at a time when many museums and international exhibitions have less and less time for new art. The Carnegie International that is now on view in Pittsburgh barely acknowledges '90s art; last summer's

Venice Biennale was rendered all but comatose when its commissioner eliminated the sprawling Aperto section, the inevitably uneven free-for-all that has no equal as a showcase for emerging artists from around the world.

On the surface, Flood's survey is a bit Aperto-like, eclectic, and inclusive rather than selective and focused. It captures some of the camaraderie and certainly much of the diversity of the new English scene, but only a dozen or so of the 22 artists here seem worthy of sustained attention.

It's hard to get a sense of Whiteread's work (which is at its best on a large scale) from the quiet, easily transportable rubber and resin casts of a mattress and a desk's interior. Similarly, it's difficult to fully appreciate the renegade instincts

of the Chapman brothers from "Urbemensch," their rather maudlin if anti-heroic sculptural portrait of the scientist Stephen Hawking in his wheelchair.

It's hardly surprising that none of Hirst's dead-animal sculptures made it to the Walker. On view instead are two restrained and strikingly beautiful sculptures that involve, in one case, a bank of hygienic shelving dotted with hundreds of cigarette butts and, in the other, an inverted secretarial chair and glass table, also equipped with the accoutrements of smoking, shown upside down in a huge glass vitrine.

The work of these artists is more or less of a piece with the patchwork of concerns pursued by younger artists elsewhere, veering from Neo-Pop to Neo-

Conceptualism to Neo Post-Minimalism (Bruce Nauman is a big influence) to performance, while paying scant heed to the vogue of theoretical or political correctness that gripped so much art in the '80s and early '90s. But the British contingent embraces with particular enthusiasm the belief that art can be about and made out of anything, that it has a responsibility to be disturbing and adversarial, or at least unpredictable.

Sometimes the results, at least as displayed here, are merely slight. In particular, Anya Galaccio's chain of drying daisies, Sam Taylor-Wood's monotonous video installation of people listening to and occasionally lip-synching to opera music, and Abigail Lane's sophomoric wallpaper, printed with blood-red splatters and handprints. Yet there are exceptions, in-

stances in which Conceptual strategies in particular are re-stated in more personal or visually engaging terms, or pushed toward an accessibility that is almost populist.

In one of the show's stand-outs, Georgia Starr creates an encyclopedic diagram and photo spread cataloging every object acquired during a three-

week stay in The Hague, a work that comes with its own CD-ROM and appeals to the pack rat in us all.

Whether the best artists in this uneven exhibition are investigating a genuine avant-garde or merely perpetuating a reasonable facsimile remains to be seen. But it is exciting to watch them dusting off the idea and trying it on for size.

BOOKS

AFTER ALL

By Mary Tyler Moore. 332 pages. \$24.95. Putnam.

Reviewed by Carolyn See

THIS is a scalding American memoir, quintessentially puritanical, heartbreakingly naive, a philosophical act of moral subtraction: Mary Tyler Moore starts with nothing and, at some level, ends up with less. Her life has been a trial by fire. It seems she has stripped away everything. At 56 she's lost two husbands to divorce, a son, brother, mother and sister to death, and she's purged herself — touchingly — of all bad habits. She no longer drinks, smokes or eats meat. Her posture is perfect, her exercise program still in place; she tells the story of her life in a touching series of short, edifying chapters. As a graduate of the Betty Ford Clinic, she's more than happy to take responsibility for everything, to take every blame.

But there's a moment in this narrative when she mentions that — at age 40 — she had her first affair. I don't know, it made me sad — she's been taking responsibility for mistakes left and right, and she's been working nonstop since she was 18, and the poor kid never got to have any fun. By the time you finish this book, you'll never think the same way about "The Dick Van Dyke Show" or "The Mary Tyler Moore Show."

Where was the humor in those two enterprises? The humor was in seeing a pretty young woman more or less beleaguered, more or less at a loss, always in some kind of minor-key silent trouble. Why did we think that was funny? Maybe because we were in the same boat she was — smiling right along, trying to keep everybody happy, reacting instead of acting, trying to be just a little bit enticing while remaining a wholesome virgin. Another whole thing about this book: You'll never long nostalgically for the '50s again — if you ever did. The '50s were horrible.

Mary Tyler Moore was born into the lower middle class. Her mother was ditsy, fun-loving, a little vacant, and she drank too much. Her father was a brooding, silent type who withheld himself emotionally from everyone.

Moore turned up his nose at his job, his wife, his kids. His older daughter, dogged by a desperate compulsion to please, tried to get on his good side up until his 80s. It would never happen.

But when she was still a child, she thought it might happen. She enrolled in a storefront dancing school and through her teens went out performing for crazed war veterans and wayward girls, and by her junior year in high school, she was working in the mail room at CBS, and then playing a dancing elf in a refrigerator.

It was the '50s, and so by the time Mary was 18 she had married a crumbly juice salesman, and by the time she was 19 she was a mom. By her middle 20s she was a television icon who hardly ever saw her own kid. She dumped that first unfortunate husband and decided in one night that it would be great to marry Grant Tinker, because they would surely become "the golden couple" of television, and they did.

Moore is extremely generous professionally to her second husband, and one supposes she's right in doing that. Between them they created a great television dynasty. But there are stomach-turning passages about them driving home to separate cars and him criticizing her driving. You think: My God! With all their money, why didn't she hire a driver? But his need to humiliate her has been strong and her need to take it must have been even stronger.

So with all her talent, money, power, Moore's life was ruled by men. She married to get away from her father, then married someone like her father, and after her son died tragically, married a very nice man

18 years her junior. When she and Grant Tinker split up, she tells us, she didn't even know how to go into a bank.

No wonder she was America's sweetheart, though. She's so dear and bleak and earnest as she tells her story that you want to lay a friendly arm across her

shoulder. It's not so bad, Mary! As you say, you did the best you could at the time. And you're not the only one. After all, we're all in the same boat.

Carolyn See reviews books regularly for *The Washington Post*.

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Friday, December 1, 1995

Room 16 at 2 p.m. FURNITURE AND OBJECTS D'ART. MILLON-ROBERT, 19, rue de la Grange Bateliere, 75009 PARIS. Tel: (1) 48 00 99 44 - Fax: (1) 48 00 98 58.

Monday, December 4, 1995

Room 4 at 2 p.m. JEWELRY - GOLD AND SILVERWARE. MILLON-ROBERT, 19, rue de la Grange Bateliere, 75009 PARIS. Tel: (1) 48 00 99 44 - Fax: (1) 48 00 98 58.

Tuesday, December 5, Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Room 8 at 2:15 p.m. ANTIQUE AND MODERN BOOKS. Expert: M. J. Benelli. On view at the expert: 244, rue Saint-Jacques, 75005 PARIS. Tel: (1) 46 33 73 51 - Fax: (1) 40 51 01 39. On November 30, from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Etude TAJAN, 37, rue des Mathurins, 75009 PARIS. Tel: (1) 53 30 30 30 - Fax: (1) 53 30 30 31.

Wednesday, December 6, 1995

Room 1 at 2:15 p.m. PRIMITIVE ART. Expert: M. A. de Monbrison. On view at: Etude TAJAN, 37, rue des Mathurins, 75009 PARIS. Tel: (1) 53 30 30 30 - Fax: (1) 53 30 30 31.

Friday, December 8, 1995

Room 3 at 2:15 p.m. JEWELRY - COLLECTIBLE - SILVER. Experts: MAL R. Duchaut and Th. Sienon. Etude TAJAN, 37, rue des Mathurins, 75009 PARIS. Tel: (1) 53 30 30 30 - Fax: (1) 53 30 30 31.

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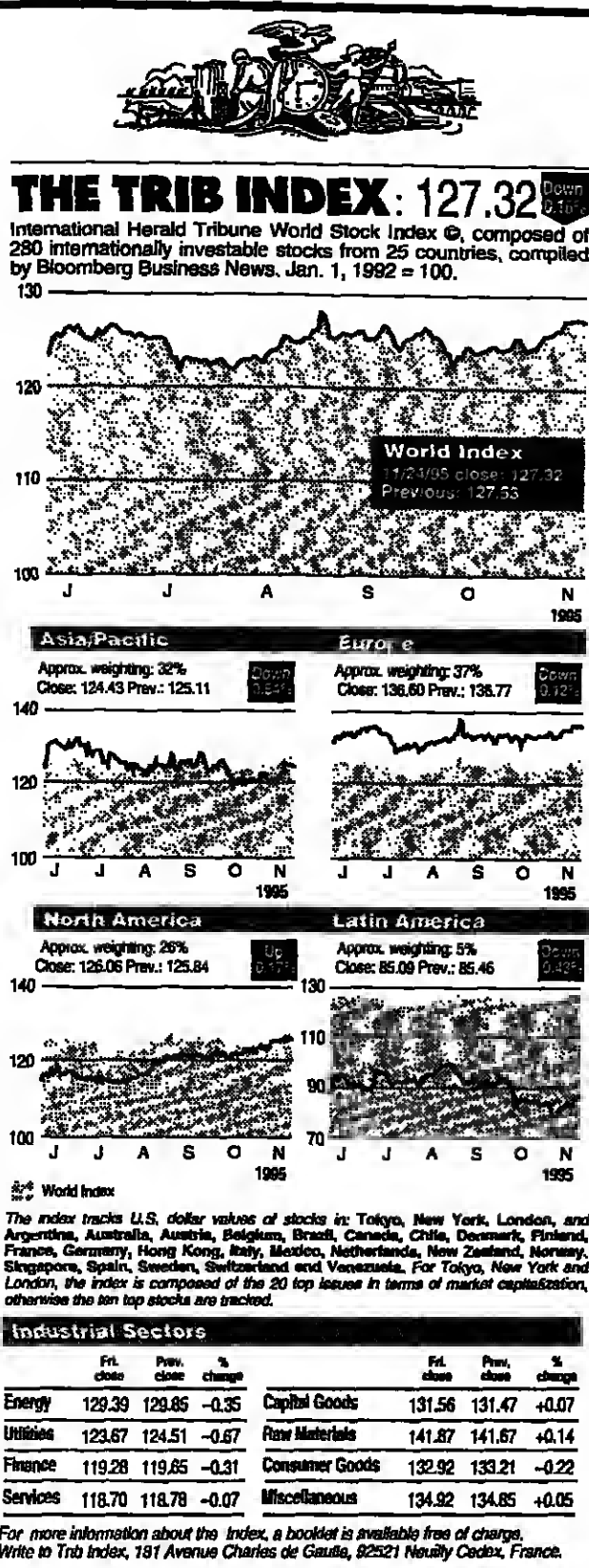
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U.S. Firms: The Worldly Shoppers

International Investment Totals Reach Record Levels

By Allen R. Myerson
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — American corporations, flush with record profits, are investing far more abroad than ever before — buying companies, building factories and opening offices and stores.

Direct investment abroad reached \$33 billion in the first half of 1995, according to the Commerce Department. This annual pace represents a 47 percent jump from a year earlier and a 27 percent increase from the record year, 1993.

The resurgence in American spending overseas has reversed a long imbalance. Throughout the 1980s, foreign direct investment in the United States, especially in real estate and corporations, vastly outpaced American investment abroad. But the tide turned in 1991, and American spending has been greater every year since.

Some of these investments have resulted in the closing of American factories. But economists and the companies making the investments hail the international expansion as a testament to American efficiency.

American companies are leading a global investment boom fueled by worldwide economic growth, especially in developing nations. Formerly protected markets have opened, and state-owned enterprises have been put up for sale.

Countries that until recently regarded multinational corporations as pirates coming ashore now allow American companies to drill their oil wells, grill their hamburgers and even bury their dead.

While Western Europe still gets most of the money, the flow is increasing most rapidly into Asia and Latin America and has more than doubled to the developing world's four leading recipients — Brazil, Mexico, Singapore and Indonesia — from just three years ago.

Japan, despite its economic slowdown, is also attracting billions in new American investment, reflecting some success in efforts to pry open that nation's markets. But

investment in China, with its uncertain political outlook and its frequent flouting of American intellectual-property rights, has slowed.

While U.S. concerns have been investing abroad since America was an emerging market in the early 19th century, economists say current activity surpasses all others.

American companies have already transformed themselves into some of the world's most efficient, lowest-cost producers of goods and services, regaining their lead in many high-technology fields. They have also increased profits at home by cutting jobs and installing the latest technology, said Michael Porter, a Harvard Business School professor and consultant.

"Now, the hot topic around boardrooms is, 'How can we grow?'" Mr. Porter said. "Many companies are seeing foreign expansion as the best avenue."

While corporate mergers and acquisitions within the United States are often merely transfers of control, he said, American companies can use acquisitions abroad as bridgeheads for larger market moves.

Though the United States is leading the charge, investments are rising around the world. Total direct foreign investment by all countries — excluding portfolio investment, which brings no direct management or control — rose 9 percent last year, to a record \$226 billion, from \$208 billion in 1993, according to United Nations figures.

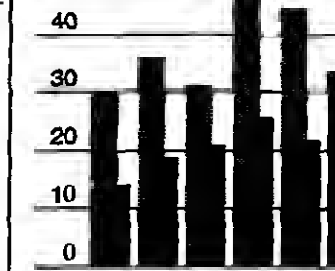
"Everybody's into a less protectionist, more deregulatory mode," said Jagdish Bhagwati, an economist at Columbia University. "Our firms are in a position to move in."

Investing Abroad

Direct foreign investment by American businesses.

Through June 30

\$50 billion



NYT

Planning for Growth, BT Splits Top Job

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — British Telecommunications PLC said Friday it would split the roles of chairman and chief executive to better position itself for expansion overseas and to take advantage of new technology.

Starting Jan. 2, Peter Bonfield, now chairman and chief executive of ICL PLC, will take over as chief executive of British Telecom. Sir Iain Vallance, now BT's chairman and chief executive, will remain chairman.

Sir Iain said holding the dual position was useful after British Telecom was privatized in 1984 but that splitting the top job

now would put the company in a better position for international growth.

He said of Mr. Bonfield: "His wide international experience, his dedication to quality management and his in-depth knowledge of the computing services industry will be of particular relevance to BT as we continue our global expansion in the convergent market of telecommunications and software applications."

Mr. Bonfield, 51, has been at the head of ICL, which is 80 percent-owned by Fujitsu Ltd. of Japan, since 1990. He said British Telecom needed to take advantage of changing technology as communications

networks evolved from analogue systems to computer-run digital systems.

"Clearly the company needs to continue to push into the international market and move into new areas of multimedia," Mr. Bonfield said.

Analysts said they were optimistic about Mr. Bonfield's appointment.

"Most people have been brought up in BT's analogue past. Bonfield is totally immersed in the digital future," said Lawrence Heyworth, an analyst at Robert Fleming Securities Ltd.

British Telecom shares closed at 359 pence (\$5.61), up 5. (Bloomberg, AFP)

Bank Profits Soar As Japan Braces For Loan Bailout

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Major Japanese banks reported sharply higher profits Friday for the first half of their financial year, but analysts were concerned that the banks had made little headway in writing off problem loans.

Analysts also said the banks would not be able to maintain their earnings performance and that many would have to take losses for the full year to make meaningful loan write-offs.

The banks had windfall profits in the six months ending Sept. 30, thanks largely to interest-rate cuts by the central bank, which allowed banks to borrow money more cheaply and make profits in bonds, whose value goes up when interest rates go down.

Big banks such as Sanwa Bank Ltd. and Fuji Bank Ltd. were particularly strong performers, with about \$2.7 billion each in operating profit from their main banking business. Combined, the 11 main commercial banks reported operating profit of \$18.5 billion, up from \$10.8 billion last year.

"This is as good as it gets," said David Saddy, an analyst at Jardine Fleming. "These are probably the best numbers you'll see this century."

With the central bank's discount rate already down to 0.5 percent, further interest-rate cuts are considered unlikely.

Many banks appeared to be saving reserves for a major demand on them sometime in the next few months, when the government hopes to have banks bail out the troubled Jusen, or housing loan companies, to which they have lent money.

These lending companies are holding large amounts of land as collateral for loans that soured after the collapse of the speculative "bubble" economy of the late 1980s.

Analysts said they expected greater write-downs in the second half of the year, which ends March 31.

Fuji Bank, which has taken an aggressive stance toward its bad-loan problem, forecast a net loss of 370 billion yen (\$3.2 billion) for the full year because of loan write-offs.

Hokkaido Takushoku Bank said it would raise about \$1.1 billion by selling its headquarters and other real estate to help deal with nonperforming loans.

Daiwa Bank Ltd. took a loss of 113.29 billion yen because of the bond-trading fiasco in its New York branch. Daiwa was indicted in the United States this month on charges it had tried to cover up the loss and was ordered to close its American operations. (AP, AFP)

Charges Read Against Leeson

Bloomberg Business News

SINGAPORE — Nicholas Leeson was charged Friday with 11 counts of forgery and cheating in the fall of Barings PLC and ordered held in a maximum security Singapore prison pending another hearing in a week.

At the request of Singapore Commercial Affairs Department, the Finance Ministry white-collar crime squad, Mr. Leeson did not enter a plea. He also did not ask for bail. The department said it wanted more time to question Mr. Leeson on his role in the Barings debacle.

It took more than an hour for an officer of the court to read aloud all the charges against Mr. Leeson.

"Do you understand all the charges?" the officer asked. "Yes," Mr. Leeson replied: was the only time he spoke.

ECONOMIC SCENE

In Burma, Making Change Is a Challenge

By Kevin Murphy
International Herald Tribune

RANGOON — As Asian currencies go, Burma's kyat is among the quirkiest and, at the same time, the one that most needs major reform.

First, there are the banknotes themselves. U Ne Win, the socialist former head of state, thought certain number combinations were lucky, so 15-, 45- and 90-kyat notes still circulate alongside the more straightforward fives and multiples of 10 — a constant test for visitors who think in decimal terms.

But counting change is a snap compared with the task officials and businesses face in sorting out a nearly 20-fold difference between the kyat's official foreign exchange rate and the more accurate street-market value.

The oddly denominated banknotes will eventually be phased out, financial officials said, but narrowing the exchange-rate differential will require massive economic and social adjustment throughout Burma — or Myanmar, as the military-led government calls the country now.

"Our exchange rate is quite cumbersome and hard to understand," said Daw Khine Khine, joint secretary of the state-controlled Myanmar Investment Commission and one of the country's top economic planners.

"We really want to correct this as soon as possible, the leaders agree," he said. "But the situation has been unchanged for 20 years. It's very difficult to estimate

the full consequences of reform."

At the official rate, \$1 is worth about 6.2 kyat. On the black market, though, it buys as many as 120 kyat, a situation that forces every importer to become an exporter and every economist a clairvoyant.

Importers who purchase goods abroad and sell them in Burma for kyat would take a heavy loss if they converted their profits at the official rate. Instead, they buy local commodities such as rice, beans, nuts, wood and shrimp, among other products in the agriculturally rich country, and export the goods to realize their hard-currency profits.

"It's difficult for the foreign investor to understand but not too difficult to operate once they understand it," said Serge Pun, a Burmese businessman who returned from Hong Kong to set up several businesses including a bank and import-export operations.

A sudden rise in exports of many Burmese agricultural commodities this can be partly explained by private importers' needs to realize their profits abroad. Entrepreneurs with financing costs to cover tend to move more nimbly than the state, which controlled most exports until recently.

But while farmers are enjoying demand-driven price increases for their produce, the trend is bringing domestic prices in line with international levels, perhaps more quickly than local consumers can stand.

At the same time, because some entrepreneurs are willing to export at a loss just to get their hands on hard currency

again, price distortions are creeping in.

The government, which faces a political standoff with the National League for Democracy headed by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, is understandably concerned about inflation in Burma, which has averaged around 30 percent in recent years.

Signs that local rice prices had risen to dangerous levels prompted the government to curtail exports despite their key role in helping Rangoon build up its foreign-currency reserves.

Economists estimate that roughly two-thirds of the economy now uses the kyat's market value as its benchmark for transactions. The government also has moved to legitimize trade between the kyat and the foreign-exchange certificates that tourists must buy on arrival.

But with the public sector, including most state-owned businesses, operating on the assumption that the kyat is worth roughly 20 times what it brings officially, Burma faces a painful readjustment in its public finances.

At the same time, switching to the market rate for the kyat will severely hurt state-owned businesses, which receive large de facto subsidies every time they buy dollars at the official rate.

Rangoon is counting on external assistance to help it sort out the currency mess, in the form of both technical advice and cold, hard cash. But the International Monetary Fund, which is considering a resumption of technical assistance only, has made its decision dependent on Burma reforming its currency first.

I forecast the DAY of the 1987 Stock Market Crash - four months in advance. Now I'm warning my subscribers:

"The Financial Panic of 1996 is Just Around the Corner"

Rebecca Nolan, Mathematician and Financial Astrologer

The third - and final - great stock market crash of the 20th century is just around the corner, according to Rebecca Nolan, the Editor of FINANCIAL ASTROLOGY.

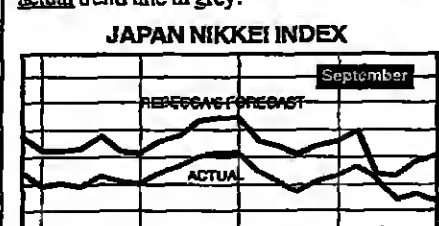
The same patterns, and the same "red alert" signals that were flashing in 1929 (and earlier in 1929) are flashing wildly now.

At that time Rebecca wasn't able to see the extent or duration of the 1929 crash. Now she can not only tell you the date the next crash begins, but how long it will last, and how far down it will go.

By following her forecasts in FINANCIAL ASTROLOGY you'll get privileged information available to her clients and subscribers ONLY. She will not reveal the date of the crash immediately but I can tell you this: it's LESS THAN 12 months from now and it's NOT next October.

When you subscribe to FINANCIAL ASTROLOGY you'll be able to pinpoint the highs and lows of the world's major markets before they happen.

The "guts" of the newsletter are the charts which give you precise no-hedge forecasts for the next 3 months on 50 world markets. Here is the chart showing the NIKKEI INDEX in September with FINANCIAL ASTROLOGY's forecast in black and the actual trend line in grey:



Here are some of the Charts Which Appeared in the September, 1995, Issue and Their Percentage Accuracy on a Daily Basis:

- Australia's All Ord. 96% Correct
- Dow Jones Index. 77% Correct
- Hang Seng Index. 92% Correct
- Wellington Index. 91% Correct
- Taipei Weighted Index. 83% Correct
- Japanese Yen. 73% Correct
- Thai Baht. 76% Correct
- Silver. 95% Correct
- Gold. 80% Correct
- Coffee. 85% Correct

Every week subscribers write in describing the success they have had following the highs and lows shown in the charts. One fund manager faxed to say he had moved his fund from average to top of the ratings with an 80% annual return as a direct result of subscribing to FINANCIAL ASTROLOGY.

About the Editor

Rebecca Nolan is a mathematician and financial astrologer who has taught mathematics in US universities for the past 12 years. Twenty-five years ago she set out to improve astrology mathematically - but quickly discovered it's a pseudoscience. Now based in Hong Kong, she consults regularly to several heads of state, wealthy investors (4 of them are in the Fortune 500) and businessmen. She is featured regularly in newspapers and magazines and appears on radio and television. She's a member of the 30,000 Strong American Federation of Astrologers (AFA).

Here are a Few of the Money - Making Opportunities You'll Learn About in the Next Issue:

- When Wall Street stocks head up smartly in December, and Tokyo follows in January. Investors worldwide will be lulled into a false sense of security. Don't join them: it's merely the lull before the storm.
- A rise in interest rates in January will turn into nice profits if you short the bond market. And despite the uptick in interest rates, the US dollar also falls the same month. Should you buy Yen, Marks, Pounds - or what? And WHEN? Find out in the next issue of FINANCIAL ASTROLOGY.
- From March, it's downhill for Hong Kong stocks, Hong Kong property - and Hong Kong itself. Add China's takeover in 1997 to the

Panic of '96 and you get a financial wipeout.

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CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

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EUROPE

Slowdown Worsens In France, Raising Fears of Recession

PARIS — France's economic slowdown, already harsher and more stubborn than expected, is showing signs of worsening, adding to the government's troubles, economists said Friday.

Growth forecasts are grim, with third-quarter data due next week expected to show little or no expansion and the fourth quarter looking at least as bad.

There are new hints the slowdown may last into next year, and some economists are raising the specter of recession.

The downturn jeopardizes the government's plan to overhaul the welfare system and cut public deficits to qualify for European economic and monetary union in 1999, economists said.

Though many still call recession unlikely, there are signs that the French public may need more to restore its confidence than the government's recent statement that deficit reduction is its top priority.

Data released Friday showed consumer spending plunged 4.4 percent in October from the previous month, the biggest monthly drop since January 1993, when France was in recession.

"It's not surprising consumers postponed their purchases in the climate of extreme uncertainty," said Darren Williams, an economist with Merrill Lynch.

The government of President

Jacques Chirac has announced 100 billion francs (\$20.53 billion) in new taxes designed to cut the budget deficit to less than 3 percent of gross domestic product by 1997.

"Fiscal policy is unambiguously restrictive," said David Naude, an economist at J.P. Morgan. "Confidence is one thing, but 100 billion French francs in new taxes is another."

"There is a definite lack of consumer confidence, and people are very concerned about the impact of taxation," said Sonja Grueter, an economist at IBI International.

Mr. Chirac and his prime minister, Alain Juppé, face tough opposition from trade unions on their plan to curb spending. Business and transportation in France were slowed seriously by a strike by public-sector workers Friday, and a similar work stoppage is scheduled for Tuesday.

The government forecasts growth of 2.8 percent next year and 2.9 percent this year, but private economists see growth nearer to 2 percent in 1996 and little better this year.

"The government's 1996 forecast is absolutely out of reach," Mr. Naude said, adding that Paris was counting on a pickup in spending and a drop in unemployment — the opposite of what has happened over the past three months.

France's Fast Trains Run in the Red

SNCF Is Moving Toward Reform at a Snail's Pace

Bloomberg Business News

PARIS — France's unprofitable rail-road system, for all its famed high-speed trains, is barely chugging toward reform as Europe's other railroad monopolies whiz by.

In the next few days, Prime Minister Alain Juppé will decide how much of the company's debt of 175 billion French francs (\$35 billion) the government will take on. He also will lay out structural changes and cost-cutting measures the company must adopt for continued state help in the next five years.

The debt, equivalent to more than half the government's annual deficit, makes Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer "the most indebted, most subsidized company in France," Transport Minister Bernard Pons said.

For all its efforts to cut its deficit to try to qualify for European economic and monetary union in 1999, the government's reluctance to battle unions that resist reform efforts suggests that taxpayers will have to continue providing the 50 billion francs that the SNCF receives in subsidies each year.

Nor does the government have plans to change the company's status — in spite of the European Union's drive to dismantle monopolies.

"We won't cut SNCF's subsidies; that's totally out of the question," said a Transport Ministry official who asked not to be identified. "France's choice is against privatizing SNCF, or even redesigning it."

France's reluctance to change contrasts sharply with events elsewhere in Europe. London already is selling British Rail passenger company, a long-distance passenger company, one freight company and a company to supply and maintain track and trains.

"We'll get to do the same thing as the

prepared to be sold to investors by 1998. "In France, we only reform when we're on the verge of catastrophe," said Elie Cohen, an economist with France's CNRS policy institute and board member of state-owned France Telecom. "It's only when they have their back to the wall that French politicians muster the courage to act."

They may have reached that point now. At 55 billion francs, SNCF's sales barely exceed the state's annual subsidy and do not leave much by way of operating profit once the company has paid 45 billion francs in labor costs.

Of its 32,000-kilometer (15,000-mile) network, most of it dating from the 19th century, 6,000 kilometers are highly profitable, consuming 10 percent of the money spent on maintenance while carrying only 1 percent of passenger traffic.

"What we have with SNCF is a monopoly where engineers, not salesmen, run the show," said Dominique Bussereau, a deputy at the National Assembly, France's lower house of Parliament, who specializes in transportation issues.

France was three years late in beginning to follow a 1991 European Union directive to split passenger and freight business from network maintenance as the first step toward opening markets to competition. The SNCF began publishing distinct sets of accounts for those two lines of business and says that is all it will do.

Meanwhile, Deutsche Bahn prepares to be sold as four or more companies within four years, with at least a short-haul passenger company, a long-distance passenger company, one freight company and a company to supply and maintain track and trains.

"We'll get to do the same thing as the

Bundesbahn but only more slowly," Mr. Cohen, the economist, said.

France is also seeking to devolve power to regions. Thus, it will be up to local authorities to decide whether to maintain unprofitable lines or court unpopularity by closing them.

For all the SNCF's financial plight, trade unions say they will oppose the five-year development plan, which was presented to them Monday.

"The rail workers' unions stand united. We won't let that plan go through," said Claude Marache, secretary-general of the Confédération Générale du Travail, or CGT, which claims 30,000 members among the SNCF's 180,000 employees.

All seven of the SNCF's unions were on strike Friday to protest the plan and a proposal to delay retirement. SNCF train drivers retire at age 50, compared with 60 for most employees in the private sector, a legacy of the time they had to shove coal into engine furnaces. The state subsidy includes 18 billion francs for the pensions of the company's 350,000 retirees.

"There's one way you can sum up SNCF: debts and retirees," Mr. Cohen said.

In addition, railway workers' salaries have risen faster than the rate of inflation, increasing by 2.2 percentage points more than retail prices in the last five years while other French wage-earners have had to tighten their belts.

Although the number of SNCF employees has shrunk by 40 percent, or 70,000 people, in the last 10 years, labor costs have actually increased.

Critics blame this on high wages: A senior driver of a Train à Grande Vitesse, or TGV, earns 300,000 francs a month for a 35-hour work week, second only to Swiss pay levels in the industry in Europe.

'Promising' Swiss Flat-TV Advance Evokes Orwell's Screens

By Robert Kroon
Special to the Herald Tribune

LAUSANNE — A university research team said it had made a major advance toward developing a product that has eluded industrial designers for years: a high-resolution, ultraflat screen for television sets and computers, thin enough to be hung on the wall like a painting.

The research team at the Swiss Federal Polytechnic University, led by a Dutch microphysicist, Walt de Heer, has developed a system for such screens that is based on existing phosphor-screen technology but eliminates the bulky electron gun used in ordinary picture tubes.

Current flat screens, such as those placed on computer terminals, are based on plasma or liquid crystal technology. They are expensive to

make and do not match the sharpness and color resolution of standard TV tubes, especially in large formats.

Science magazine, publishing a technical paper from the Swiss group along with an editorial, welcomed the invention as a potential breakthrough. "This could be turned into George Orwell's famous telescreen," one Science editor said, adding, "It is a promising approach, because it interfaces with existing technology, so you don't have to start from scratch."

Richard Smalley, a physicist from Rice University in Texas, who looked into the experiment, told Science magazine it was "a nice big current, strong enough to elicit an image from a phosphor-coated display."

Philips NV of the Netherlands is sending a team to Lausanne to evaluate Mr. de Heer's

experiment and assess its commercial potential. International Business Machines Corp. and Swiss electronics companies also have shown interest. The consumer electronics industry has spent millions of dollars on research trying to develop a high-resolution flat screen.


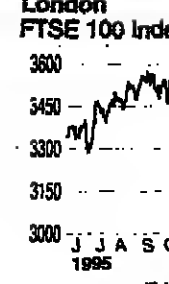
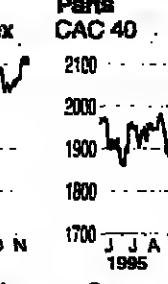
Mr. de Heer says he has patented his device and intends to stay involved in product development because he does not "want to wind up with a bottle of wine," as he puts it. He is convinced his flat screen will be commercially viable before the end of the century.

Mr. de Heer, a specialist in submicroscopic physics, uses conventional picture-tube technology minus the bulky electron gun. His system works with a field of millions of tiny electron-emitting carbon cylinders vertically arrayed on plastic film that is coated on the back of the

screen. He says his carbon nanotubes, working like "inverted lightning conductors," can do the job better and cheaper than the standard cathode ray gun.

With André Châtelain, head of the university's Institute for Experimental Physics, and the Argentine physicist Daniel Ugarte, Mr. de Heer has worked on his close-range electron emitter for almost a year. The breakthrough came early this summer, when he measured the first electron stream from his carbon tube arrays.

Mr. de Heer's flat screen could revolutionize a multibillion-dollar industry. An extra bonus of his technology is lower energy consumption and a reduction in potentially harmful X-ray emissions. "This is a cold system," the inventor said. "Half the energy in a conventional TV set goes into heating up the electron gun."

Investor's Europe				
Frankfurt DAX		London FTSE 100 Index		Paris CAC 40
				
J J A S O N 1995		J J A S O N 1995		J J A S O N 1995
Exchange	Index	Friday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	EOE	467.37	463.99	+0.73
Brussels	Stock Exchange	7,932.66	7,923.96	+0.11
Frankfurt	DAX	2,198.16	2,192.25	+0.27
Copenhagen	Stock Market	366.04	356.48	-0.12
Helsinki	HEX General	1,648.99	1,630.09	+1.03
Oslo	OBX	400.35	399.70	+0.31
London	FTSE 100	3,624.00	3,602.50	+0.60
Madrid	Stock Exchange	311.97	308.61	+1.09
Milano	MBITEL	9,018.00	9,073.00	-0.61
Paris	CAC 40	1,890.95	1,867.11	+1.28
Stockholm	SX 16	1,899.33	1,867.48	+0.63
Vienna	ATX	924.05	923.54	+0.05
Zurich	SPI	2,064.78	2,059.14	+0.27

Source: Teleguru

International Herald Tribune

ASIA/PACIFIC

Discounted Prices And Strong Yen Hurt Fuji's Profit

Bloomberg Business News
TOKYO — Fuji Photo Film Co., embroiled in a trade dispute with Eastman Kodak Co., said Friday its half-year earnings had been hurt by price reductions brought on by foreign competition and by the strong yen's erosion of export revenue.

But competition from Agfa was not the only reason prices fell, as imports in general have pushed prices down. Mr. Muneyuki said, adding that Fuji's share of the \$1.9 billion domestic consumer-film market had slipped below 70 percent.

Analysts and photo-industry sources said Fuji's market share had dropped four percentage points, to 69 percent, over the past year. Some said that business had been lost almost entirely to Agfa, a unit of the polymer and health-care concern Bayer AG, whose market share has jumped to 5 percent from 1 percent a year ago.

Because Fuji changed the end of its financial year to March 31 this year, year-on-year comparisons were not exact. Compared with the half-year ended Oct. 20, 1994, Fuji's current profit

was down 15 percent. The yen's appreciation took a 10 billion yen bite out of revenue, Mr. Muneyuki said. Fuji exported 29.5 percent of its products in the first half.

A movement of one yen in the dollar's value in either direction affected profit by about 1.5 billion yen, the company said.

Offsetting some of those problems were increased sales volume, cost-cutting and a depreciation in the yen since July. Those factors helped Fuji post better pretax earnings than the 48 billion yen it had forecast.

"The yen's decline rescued us," said Masayoshi Fujita, the company's general manager of accounting.

Sales for the half-year came to 395.48 billion yen, better than the 390 billion yen the company had projected but down 1.7 percent from the six months ended Oct. 20, 1994.

Fuji received a big lift from its information-systems division, which makes printing machines and medical and office equipment. Sales in the division accounted for 46.6 percent of total revenue. Income from the paper and photo developing equipment division made up 15.5 percent of sales.

In a trade dispute that has so far generated roughly 2,000 pages of accusations and rebuttals, Kodak has filed charges with the U.S. trade representative's office claiming that Fuji unfairly blocks access to Japan's color-film market through illegal rebates, price maintenance and intimidation.

Fuji denies the charges.

Mixed Blessing for Asian Markets

Stocks Fall, but Growth Now May Be More Sustainable

By Michael Richardson
 International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — In sharp contrast to the record stock gains on the Dow Jones industrial average in the United States and the return of share-price stability in Japan, markets in high-growth economies of Southeast Asia have recently suffered substantial falls.

On average, the value of stocks is down about 10 percent over the past two months, with the sharpest falls in the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand.

Analysts blame the weakness on tighter credit, a loss of interest by foreign investors and an excess of new issues by governments and private companies.

"The latest wave of stock market weakness is a response to tighter domestic monetary conditions and a slowdown in foreign capital inflows," said Bernhard Eschweiler, who tracks the Southeast Asian markets for J.P. Morgan

& Co. in Singapore.

Fueled largely by foreign investors mesmerized by the region's rapid economic growth, stocks in Southeast Asia doubled on average in 1993 but fell back by around 15 percent in 1994. This year,

INTERNATIONAL STOCKS

investors have been disappointed by the failure of companies to deliver the kind of growth in earnings per share that the region's economic ascent seemed to promise.

"In 1995, Southeast Asian earnings-per-share growth is forecast to reach about 20 percent," said a fund manager at Jardine Fleming Unit Trusts in Hong Kong. "Compare this with a growth rate of 18 percent for the U.S.—and of many times higher in the case of individual companies, particularly in the technology sector—and you can understand why many U.S. institutional investors were no

longer prepared to pay the multiples that regional markets commanded and elected instead to keep their money at home."

The recovery of the Japanese stock market from its 1995 low in early July also pulled a lot of money out of Southeast Asia, analysts said. With the Mexican financial crisis and concern about the stability of emerging markets still fresh in their minds, many institutional investors have reweighted their Asian portfolios and opted for the region's more mature markets such as Japan and Australia.

Mr. Eschweiler pointed out that the recent decline in Southeast Asian stock markets would reduce corporate expansion and personal wealth, helping to slow economic growth in the region in 1996 and probably in 1997 as well.

"This should be welcome news for cooling South Asia's overheated economies," he said. "And it will pave the way for eventual monetary easing and a rebound in stock prices."

Expansion Should Still Top Latin America's

Bloomberg Business News

MANILA — Booming Asian economies are expected to take a short breather, but their growth in real, or inflation-adjusted, gross domestic product will still be significantly higher than that in Latin American and European countries, the Asian Development Bank said Friday.

Economists at the bank said growth in Asia's developing countries would slow in 1996 and 1997 as economies matured and governments adopted new measures to fight inflation.

"It reflects adjustments to overheating, and we see this as a positive sign and not a negative sign," said Malcolm Dowling Jr., the bank's assistant chief economist.

The Manila-based bank's upbeat assessment was a contrast to the slump in many stock markets throughout the region. Mar-

kets in the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand — economies that the development bank predicted would grow an average of 7.5 percent in 1996 — have tumbled to their lowest levels in months.

The bank projected that growth in 14 Asian countries that have more than half the world's population would average 7.4 percent in 1996 and 7.1 percent in 1997, down from 8.0 percent this year.

"Overall, you're still seeing a growth rate of over 7 percent for the region," Mr. Dowling said. "That's probably three times the growth rate in Latin America or in Europe. It's a very, very strong rate of growth."

Concern that inflation and interest rates were rising and putting the region's growth at risk has prompted an exodus of some foreign funds, analysts said.

Mr. Dowling said the rapid growth that Asia was experiencing was all the more heartening because it continued a process of wealth creation that was unprecedented.

"These are rates of growth which have never been achieved in human history before over long periods of time until the last 20 years, he said."

The development bank said China, the world's most populous country, would lead the region with gross domestic product expanding by 9.0 percent next year and 8.5 percent in 1997.

Mr. Dowling said growth also would decelerate in countries such as South Korea and Taiwan, which now are among the richer countries in the region.

"As economies mature, their growth rates tend to fall," he said. "It's like getting older."

Hopewell Sale in Doubt

Agence France-Presse

HONG KONG — Hopewell Holdings Ltd. said Friday its plan to sell some infrastructure projects in Asia to reduce debt was preliminary and "may or may not actually proceed."

Gordon Wu, who controls Hopewell, said Wednesday he would sell as much as a 30 percent stake in the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Zhuhai highway in southern China and 25 percent of a road and rail project in Thailand to pay 9.5 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$1.27 billion) in debt.

Nintendo's Newest Won't Be Home by Christmas

Bloomberg Business News

TOKYO — Nintendo Co. won't start selling its powerful new Ultra 64 home video-game player in Japan until April 21, too late to benefit from the Christmas shopping season, the company said Friday.

Nintendo said it originally planned to have the player on sale before the holiday season, but now the new software will not be ready in time.

The machine, billed as the most advanced game player in the world, is to be priced at 25,000 yen (\$246).

The announcement confirmed rumors circulating since last spring that Nintendo would delay the player's arrival. The company said earlier it would delay releasing the machine in the United States until April.

Nintendo is counting on the player, the first to enable consumers to view screen

action from any angle, to help it regain ground against competitors such as Sega Enterprises Ltd. and Sony Corp. in the \$15 billion global video-game market.

Hiroshi Yamauchi, Nintendo's president, said the player's release was part of the company's plan to rejuvenate a market saturated with products of little value. "There's a lot more game makers out there now, but not that many good games," he said.

The grand prize was seven days of Baden-Württemberg's best historic cities, rousing festivities, verdant nature and the finest in cultural and culinary fare, free of charge and first-class all the way.

While revelling in these highpoints, it was another sight which most impressed Dr. Maxwell Orme Johnson, winner of this year's "Visit Baden-Württemberg" contest, sponsored by Baden-Württemberg's Ministry of Economic Affairs.

This sight is to be found and experienced throughout the state by all of the eleven million persons visiting it each year: the warm welcome accorded to new arrivals and new ideas.

The winner's week

in Baden-Württemberg

The winner, Dr. Johnson



Takata, a Japanese company, in Science Park Ulm



This trait is a product of geography and history. No part of Baden-Württemberg is more than 100 kilometers away from an international or state border. Cross-border shopping, sight-seeing and work are the norm in Baden-Württemberg and in adjacent regions in Switzerland, France and Austria.

For the last century, Baden-Württemberg has lived from coming up with new ideas and developing them into new products and services. One hundred years ago, these products were horseless carriages and high-speed locomotives.

Today they're state-of-the-art ASICs (applied specification integrated circuits), environmental technologies (Germany leads the world in this area — Baden-Württemberg produces one quarter of the country's environmental products and services) and biotechnologies, the province of our latest Nobel Prize winner, Tübingen's Prof. Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard.

Baden-Württemberg Germany's Southwest



Hillside vineyards in Stuttgart

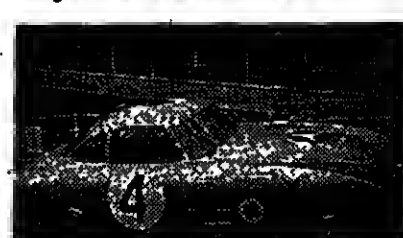


"As an international businessperson, I was of course well acquainted with Daimler-Benz, Bosch and the state's many other industrial heavyweights. Because of their number and scale of activity, I was expecting industry to be a dominant feature in the state's landscape. In fact, the rural and traditional prevail throughout the state, even in such major cities as Stuttgart, in which hillside vineyards literally adjoin the downtown area."

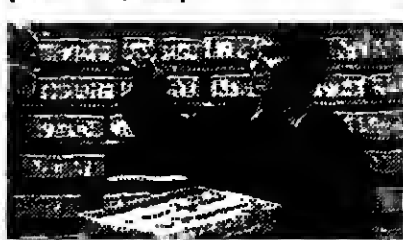
The Black Forest, Lake Constance, the Schwäbische Alb highlands, Odenwald forest, the valleys of the Danube and the Rhine — some of Europe's best-loved scenic areas are found in Baden-Württemberg. Many of the state's storied cities — Heidelberg, Tübingen, Konstanz — are centers of world travel.

"The cities bustle with shoppers and strollers and open-air markets, nicely counterpointing their off-traditional looks. This was especially apparent in Freiburg, Stuttgart, of course, is famous for its modern architecture and new cultural venues."

Stuttgart: Mercedes-Benz Museum



Nobel Prize winner '95 Prof. Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard (Photo: MPG/Filser)



Designed by James Stirling, Stuttgart's Staatsgalerie museum is one of the world's most acclaimed avant-garde structures. Recently completed in the city have been a variety theater and the Stuttgart International complex, home to its own Musik Hall.

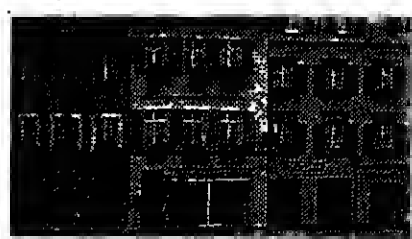
"Although large by German standards, Baden-Württemberg is compact. It is this compactness and the state's great rail and road links which allowed us to cover so much ground in only one week."

The state's high-access transport grids and heart-of-Europe location have joined to provide local communities with potent business advantages. Notable among them is Ulm. The influx of such high-tech automotive suppliers as Japan's Takata to the community is attributable to the city's location and transport links.

IC Hotel in Stuttgart's main train station



Freiburg's 'Old Town'



Located at the cross-roads of Europe's major east-west and north-south rail (ICE) and road links, the city is equidistant from three of Europe's leading centers of automobile manufacturing.

Now back at home, Dr. Johnson is already looking forward to his next visit.

"As winning the next contest (set for spring, 1996) would be too much to hope for, I'm planning on coming back and getting to know the rest of Baden-Württemberg, this time on my own money."

For further information on visiting Baden-Württemberg: State Tourist Board Baden-Württemberg e.V. Esslinger Strasse 8, D-70182 Stuttgart

For further information on doing business in Baden-Württemberg: Ministry of Economic Affairs Dr. Manfred Ginter Theodor-Heuss-Strasse 4, D-70174 Stuttgart Tel. (+49-711) 1 23-24 83 Fax (+49-711) 1 23-24 74

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

MONEY

FIRST COLUMN

In Deciding, Take a Look At the Basics

There is an argument, most notably ventilated by the writer Norman Mailer, that politics is property. Give away too much and you are left with nothing but the position of notional power you have bargained yourself into.

Privatizations pose an intriguing question about politics and property. Namely, is the converse of Mr. Mailer's thesis true? Is property politics? And on a more practical level, the key question is whether privatizations, political or otherwise, make good investments.

Proponents of privatization argue that the government giving away property does so to seduce the recipients. In established market economies, this means the government is trying to purchase popularity. In emerging economies and countries embracing the market for the first time, this means trying to persuade international investors and domestic voters that the way of the market is robust and, rocky or not, the path to long-term prosperity. The practical effect, in either case, is supposed to be a political guarantee of financial success. In developed economies this means a low flotation price. In the newer areas, this means a continuing government commitment to market economics unfettered by official interference.

Unfortunately, the practical world of privatization investing differs from this cozy theory. Not all western governments seek to seduce the electorate. Some have sought simply to get the best price for the assets being sold. There are those who say that this has been a contributing factor to the poor performance of some French issues. In the developing world, the problems of political instability and a certain paucity in government have often combined to produce uninspiring results. The upshot is that investors have to go back to basics and look at each issue for attractive features — like income, assets and quality management.

M.B.

Angry Crowds Could Doom Britain's Privatization Program

By Conrad de Aenlle

BRITAIN'S Conservative government is rushing to clear from inventory the few remaining large state companies it wishes to privatize before the next general election, which by most accounts is doomed to lose. Of the three planned sales, only the one scheduled for December of the National Grid, the electricity-distribution system, is certain to proceed.

The others — British Energy, the company being formed from the English and Scottish nuclear-power industries, and Railtrack, the national network of rail lines and stations — are in danger of falling victim to popular anger toward privatization.

A British Energy sale hinges on who will get the substantial bill — about £4 billion (\$6.24 billion) — for decommissioning antiquated reactors. The company wants the public to bear the cost, but the public is fed up with what it sees as an unfair balance of costs and benefits between shareholders and customers in past utility privatizations. Ministers in the unpopular government would therefore prefer that the company carry the liability.

The intense displeasure with privatization is being used by the opposition Labor Party to force a halt to government plans to sell Railtrack. At the party's annual conference, Tony Blair, its leader and possibly the next prime minister, threatened to buy back control of Railtrack in the event the sale goes through and Labor wins. Shareholders who had thought they owned the company might find that they had merely borrowed it.

Mr. Blair may have been trying to appease colleagues who have shown disdain for the sharp turn to the right that he has taken the party. Should Railtrack be sold off, it is doubtful that a "New Labor" government, anxious to show its fiscal responsibility, could or would muster the £1 billion or so that would be needed to buy back control of the company.

Privatization

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Fund vehicles in Europe
Telecommunications stocks
Emerging markets

"It's difficult to know where Labor's going to find the money," said Jeremy Tighe, a fund manager at Foreign & Colonial. Putting Railtrack back into public control "is going to be a relatively low priority," he said.

Mr. Tighe said the likelihood was "perhaps 70 percent" that the Tories would sell the rail system before their time runs out. "The government is very committed to it and they need the money. And the election's coming. If they don't do it and they lose the election, it will never happen."

The sale this month of the state holding companies that own Britain's trains was not a good omen. The companies were valued at £3 billion, but the sale, through private placements, brought in only £1.8 billion.

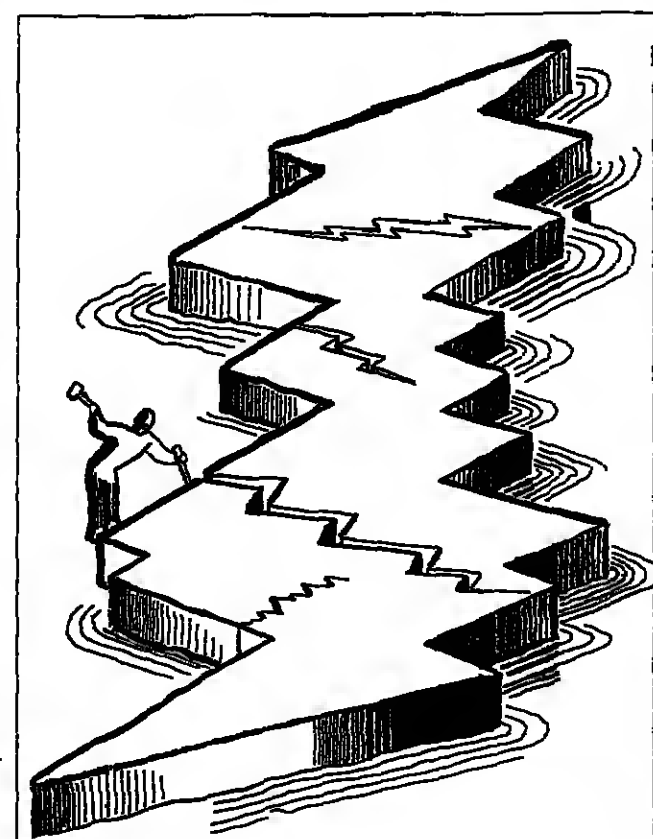
Roger Monson, chief equity strategist at Daiwa Europe, thinks Railtrack is not a commercially viable enterprise and would be better off left in the private sector. Its sale "looks problematic," he said. "If the government goes ahead, they will regret the day. It will prove to be an albatross around their neck. There are certain public services that argue strongly for state ownership."

The National Grid is not one of them, and when it comes to market, the government is likely to maintain one feature of past privatizations: an attractive offering price to boost demand. While details of the sale have yet to be announced, the sale price is expected to offer a dividend yield between 6 percent and 6.5 percent.

That is higher than the 5.5 percent yield of water companies and far higher than the 4 percent yield that telephone and electricity companies carry. "It'll be priced to go," said Kevin Fenelon, investment director at Scottish Amicable Investment Managers. "Whatever the market demands in price, it will be met."

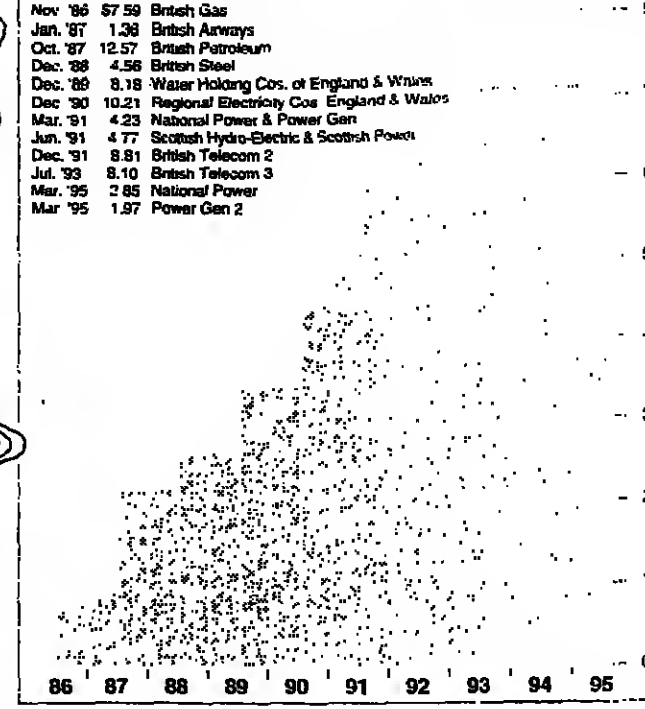
Such bargain pricing is one of the weightier pieces of evidence used by opponents of privatization to demonstrate that shareholders benefit when state utilities are sold, to the detriment of customers. "You would have thought that the government would have learned as it went along and priced it more to benefit both buyer and seller," Mr. Fenelon said.

A low price and high yield could make the grid an attractive investment, but it may also help to compel a Labor government to change a regulatory framework that has been very kind to electricity companies. The 12 regional electricity-distribution companies, known as RECs, which own the grid and will be given shares in the new, publicly traded



British Privatizations, 1986-1995

Date and value of privatizations in billions of U.S. dollars. Total: \$76.2 billion



Drawing by David Bates

entity after the flotation, have been allowed to keep all the benefits from the efficiency gains made after they were sold off five years ago. Those gains have been substantially higher than had been anticipated.

"At first sight it's a good buy," Mr. Tighe said of the grid. "It's quite a reliable, solid company. But it's due to have a regulatory review in a year, so you're buying something now that could face a tougher

climate in 18 months to two years."

The grid may be priced low enough to be worth the risk of tougher regulation. The RECs, by contrast, have become quite expensive. Several takeovers, and the possibility of others, have sent their share prices, which were 240 pence when they were sold off, into the 900s.

"We're nearer the end game in that," Mr. Fenelon said. "You've got to look to sell,

not buy. I wouldn't expect utilities to perform well ahead of an election." He said that a stock to buy as "a decent election hedge" was British Telecom PLC, with which Labor has been "cuddling up a bit."

Mr. Monson said he might buy shares in the National Grid for its dividend yield, but among privatization issues he prefers British Aerospace PLC and the water companies — "if you can be patient."

On Global Level, Success Record Is Spotty

By Ann Brocklehurst

DESPITE all the talk about privatization over the past decade, a recent report by the World Bank shows that there has been less activity than investors might think.

While divestiture has been rapid in Eastern Europe, and a few other countries have sold big state monopolies, the report found that such ambitious reform programs were the exception rather than the rule.

Throughout the world, inefficient state-owned enterprises continue to operate, hindering economic growth and making it harder for people in developing countries to escape poverty, the World Bank says.

"Government employees operate a casino in Ghana, bake cookies in Egypt, assemble watches in India, mine salt in India, make matches in Mali and bottle cooking oil in Senegal," according to the bank's "Bureaucrats in Business" report.

Although the report found that there were five times as many privatizations in the six years from 1988 to 1993 as in the previous eight years, it noted that this activity was concentrated in just five countries. Together, Argentina, Brazil, Hungary, Mexico and Poland accounted for about 30 percent of total developing-country transactions and 60 percent of the \$96 billion worth of enterprises sold in the recent five-year period.

Latin America had some of the largest deals, thanks to privatizations in the telecommunications and energy sectors. In contrast, divestitures in Central and Eastern Europe, where governments are new to the privatizing process, involved selling smaller companies and giving away shares to the public. They made up only 19 percent of the value, but almost half of the transactions.

But while private investors generally base their evaluation of a privatization on whether or not they make money, the World Bank wants to know whether there is a net gain for the country as a whole.

Although divestiture has grown, it remains small compared to the total number of state-owned enterprises still functioning. On average, countries sold just three operations a year, compared to the hundreds that the World Bank believes could have been privatized.

In developing economies — not including the so-called transition economies of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, for which comparative figures were not available — the state-owned enterprise share of gross domestic product has held constant since the late 1970s at around 11 percent. This compares to about 7 percent in the high-income countries and 14 percent in the poorest countries.

Mary Shirley, research leader of the team that produced the report, acknowledged that she was surprised at the low levels of privatization. "I hope that if our

Country	Year	Size of state-owned sector as a % of GDP before and after divestiture		Revenue from sale as % of GDP
		Before	After	
Chile	1979-91	39.0	8.0	9.4
S. Korea	1980-90	10.4	10.2	1.0
Mexico	1983-91	17.2	8.4	8.7
Egypt	1982-91	38.9	32.8	0.0
Ghana	1986-91	10.6	10.7	1.2
Philippines	1983-88	4.7	3.0	0.9
India	1983-88	11.1	13.8	0.1
Senegal	1984-89	10.3	0.9	0.9
Turkey	1983-91	7.3	7.2	1.1
China	1978-91	80.0	83.0	0.9
Czech Rep.	1989-92	95.5	80.0	8.1
Poland	1989-92	71.4	52.5	2.2

Source: World Bank

* Share of industrial GDP

numbers were up to 1995, we would have seen more of a change," she said.

There is plenty of anecdotal evidence of the inefficiencies of certain state-owned enterprises. One such case involved the Turkish state coal-mining company that lost \$6.4 billion a year between 1986 and 1990 and whose workers' life expectancy was 11 years below the national average. Not surprisingly, the World Bank report concluded that everyone "would have been better off if the government had imported coal and paid the miners to stay home."

Most cases, however, are not so clear-cut, and while academic studies support the idea that private ownership is more efficient in competitive markets, the results are less clear when state-owned enterprises operate in non-competitive markets.

The report emphasized that in countries not yet ready to reform state-owned enterprises, privatization and other changes could prove costly and damaging. "Well intentioned outsiders, including the World Bank, have sometimes attempted to prod developing countries that are not ready for reform into acting," it said.

Possible consequences include reluctant governments rushing into bad bargains to meet deadlines set by external assistance agreements, as well as governments which end over subsidies but replace them with covert aid and bank credits, which are harder to identify and spread problems throughout the financial system.

The report also emphasized that government promises concerning reform of state-owned enterprises have to be credible. "Investors must believe that the government will not renationalize privatized firms. Employees and others who believe that they may lose out in reform must believe that the government will deliver on any promises of future compensation."

Italian Experience Points Up Fatal Flaws

By Laura Colby

THE sale to the public this week of a stake in the national energy company was aimed at stirring Italy's troubled privatization program back to life.

The offering of around 15 percent of Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi SpA, or ENI, at \$2.30 a share was well-received by institutional investors and brought about 7 trillion lire into the state's needy coffers.

But compared with previous privatizations, which generally were oversubscribed, the response from individuals was lukewarm. After the first day of the offering, for instance, individual investors had not yet bought the minimum number of shares allotted to them. As the offering closed, individuals had purchased only 400 million of the 450 million shares reserved for them.

It's a measure of how poorly previous privatizations have fared that the government felt obliged to include a special guarantee in the sale that would reimburse individual purchasers by the same percentage of any fall in the stock price during the first year of trading, up to 10 percent.

This is the biggest privatization operation ever undertaken in Italy, and the choice of a low price helps guarantee the success of future offerings, said Prime Minister Lamberto Dini in announcing the terms of the sale.

Up to now, the lion's share of public offerings by Italian state companies have been from the financial sector, and most of these have been disappointing. Many of the shares have fared even worse than the Milan stock market's overall index, which

is down about 10 percent so far this year.

Istituto Nazionale delle Assicurazioni SpA, or INA, the big state insurer; Banca Commerciale Italiana, or BCI, a major commercial bank; Credito Italiano SpA, another big commercial bank; and Istituto Mobiliare Italiano SpA, or IMI, a big financial company, have all had big stakes sold to the public in the past two years.

All the companies' stocks are currently trading at below their issue price and have underperformed the market. BCI, for instance, was down to 3.115 lire this week from its March 1994 offering price of 4.773 lire — a drop of about 35 percent.

The success, or lack thereof, of the financial companies is particularly important since it is there that the state's role is greatest. About 60 percent of the Italian banking sector is still state-controlled, much of it by so-called public foundations that do not necessarily need to make a profit. Law even requires some to donate a percentage of their earnings to charity.

The results of the ENI sell-off could be an important litmus test for future privatizations. The state-owned electrical utility, ENEL, for instance, is scheduled for partial sale sometime early next year. A tranche of shares in Società Finanziaria Telefonica, or STET, the telecommunications holding company, that had been scheduled for this year is now expected to take place in 1996.

In broader terms, the Italian privatizations so far have two fatal flaws.

First, they are partial measures that leave the government with an absolute majority of shares, or at least de facto management control. At ENI, for instance, the Treasury retains a hefty majority, so the oil and energy

giant will remain in state hands.

The second flaw is that the sales are almost always structured with an eye to keeping the assets, if not in state control, at least under Italian control. That severely limits the managers' options when preparing to compete in global markets.

In fact, within Europe, Italy has historically been one of the champions of foot-dragging when it comes to privatization. "I don't think there is one wholehearted free marketeer on the political scene right now," said an Italian market analyst who insisted on anonymity.

He praised the government of Mr. Dini, former central banker, for its efforts to keep the privatization program moving forward despite opposition from left and right.

But Mr. Dini has promised to resign the end of the year to pave the way for new elections. If he is not chosen to lead Italy next government, the future of privatization could be once again thrown into doubt.

Investors interested in Italian companies might have been better advised to look private-sector companies.

One of Italy's best-known family companies, Guccio Gucci, the leather goods fashion concern, failed to get approval for listing on the Milan Borsa this fall because it did not have three straight years of profit key criterion. But that didn't stop Invicorp, its key shareholder that took control from the family, from obtaining a listing of the company's shares in New York Amsterdam on Oct. 23.

The Money Report is edited by Martin Baker

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Greece	Dr 75,000	37,500	25,000
Great Britain	£ 210	105	70
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Luxembourg	L Fr 14,000	7,000	4,700
Netherlands	fl 720	360	240
Norway	N Kr 3,500	1,750	1,167
Portugal	Etc 47,000	23,500	15,667
Spain	Ptas 48,000	24,000	16,000
Switzerland	S Fr 35,000	17,500	11,667
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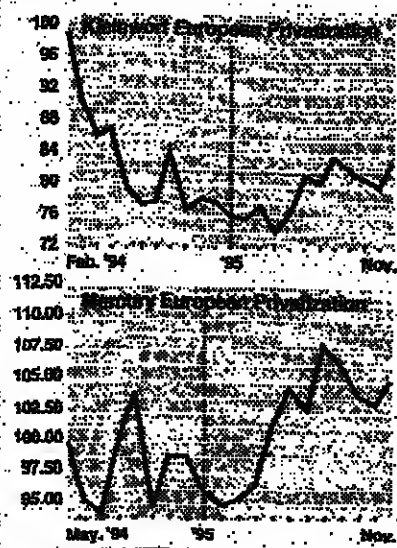
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THE MONEY REPORT

Privatization Funds

Total % return in U.S. dollars



Source: Mergal International Herald Tribune

European Fund Managers' Asset Mix Is Soured by the Odd Lemon

By Rupert Bruce

LAST Monday, the French bankers and treasury officials who ran last summer's initial sale of shares in Usinor-Sacilor SA, the French steel company, met in Paris for a belated celebratory dinner.

Yet, according to one banker present, the company's share price was hardly mentioned.

Small wonder. Usinor-Sacilor shares are trading at more than 20 percent below the institutional offer price.

Among the investors with little to celebrate were the two London-listed investment trusts established last year to buy shares in Europe's newly privatized companies.

Even though the net asset value of the Kleinwort European Privatization Investment Trust has climbed 2.6 percent since

inception in February 1994, while the Mercury European Privatization Trust has boosted its net asset value by slightly more than 15 percent, privatization has become so unpopular in Europe that shares of both trusts are trading below their issuing prices.

Vicky Sleddon, who manages the £535 million (\$829 million) Mercury fund, said: "On the basis of what has happened, you could say these assets have not been sold particularly cheaply and it is difficult to make the assets work."

In other words, European governments have made sure they have received full prices for their state industries and it has been difficult for managers to knock them into shape once they have become private companies and been faced with the realities of the private sector.

Tony Parker, manager of the £435 million Kleinwort fund, sees a dichotomy between the kind of investments these funds

have been making: "If you look around Europe since 1994 you have two different groups: the hard currency markets, like Germany and Switzerland, where stock markets have outperformed, and the soft currency markets, like France, Italy and Spain, that have underperformed. Most of the companies within our universe come from the southern soft currency markets and they also come from the sectors that have underperformed, while things like technology and pharmaceuticals have performed well."

But both universes, he argues, are victims of market fashion: "What do you associate with privatization? Utilities, or financial or industrial companies that have got into trouble and had to be rescued."

One way to overcome that image, said Ms. Sleddon, is to branch out from new privatizations to include companies that were privatized years ago, have bought privatized assets or may be approaching a

privatization sale.

These relatively loose parameters have allowed Ms. Sleddon to make money in British Petroleum PLC and British Airways PLC, both of which were privatized more than five years ago.

Yet the Kleinwort fund has suffered the most in the face of such adversity.

John Szymanski, an investment-trust analyst at SBC Warburg, said about the Mercury fund: "Undoubtedly, MEFIT has been the better performer thanks to the management's more concentrated portfolio. It is just a shame that the share price has not responded to this. Kleinwort's performance up until very recently has been all right, but I suppose it is the problem of losing a fund manager."

The fund manager that Kleinwort lost was Ms. Sleddon, who jumped ship for Mercury in October of last year, more than six months before Kleinwort took on Mr. Parker. That is a long time to be without a

manager.

So, why should anyone buy shares in these trusts or why, indeed, should anyone who owns them not sell? According to Ms. Sleddon, the first reason is that you are buying quality companies at close to a 20 percent discount.

There is also the likelihood of falls in European interest rates, she says, which would benefit the financial and industrial companies she holds. And, lastly, she says, European governments have sold \$47 billion of assets in the last few years and have another \$64 billion to \$96 billion to go. They are learning, she believes, to price them more reasonably.

Ms. Sleddon admits to many letters of complaint from shareholders. Unless the performance of these trusts improves soon, their future must be in doubt. There is pressure on both sets of managers to either wind them up or dramatically change their mandates.

Oversupply and Overpricing Threaten to Spoil Investors' Appetite for Telecom Issues

By Judith Rehak

OF the great wave of privatizations in the past few years, no industry has found as much success with international investors as telephone companies. From behemoths in developed economies like British Telecom PLC, which went public in 1984, to phone companies like Telefonos de Mexico SA, or Telmex, in Mexico, where there are only nine lines for each 100 people, eager investors have rushed to snap up newly issued telecom stocks.

"Every investor had to have at least one," says Oscar Castro, manager of the Montgomery Global Communications Fund.

But that was three years ago, he noted, adding that the market had cooled markedly in the past year and a half due to a veritable flood of offerings.

Overly ambitious pricing also has been blamed for a series of public-offering misfires in the past year: Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. of India failed in its attempt to go public; Telefonos de España SA, the Spanish phone company, raised only \$1.34 billion of a planned \$1.6 billion from a sale of shares; and two weeks ago, PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia was forced to halve the number of shares in its first offering and to slash their price to \$18.75 from a proposed \$25.

Still, many analysts remain convinced of the long-term rewards of privatized telephone companies. Mr. Castro cited a study done by his firm which showed that new privatizations, added to the old, have produced an annualized 22 percent return. "That's down from a previous study when it was about 27 percent, but it's not 12 percent either," he said.

To be sure, investors shopping for new telecom stocks won't lack for opportu-

nities. Some 20 countries, ranging from Germany and Italy to Peru and Israel, are set to bring a whopping \$36.85 billion of shares to market in 1996. "There are so many out there, you can pick and choose," said Mr. Castro.

And while Latin America's emerging market stocks are still shaky, it's hard to overlook their telecoms' prime attraction: the possibilities for spectacular growth in countries where consumers are clamoring for phones and where there may be as few as one line for every 100 people.

Jean van de Walle, who manages Latin American portfolios for New York's Alliance Capital Management, is one of a crowd waxing enthusiastic about CPT, Peru's fledgling phone company. "It's essentially a start-up business because there was hardly a phone system before, but they've been extremely ambitious," he said, noting that line growth had leaped by 50

percent this year and management was cutting back on staffing. The Peruvian phone company has one other distinct advantage: no competition for four more years.

Friendly or hostile regulators can make or break a telecom investment, warn analysts, as illustrated by events in Chile last year when regulators opened the long-distance market to competition. A price war erupted between nine companies, resulting in plummeting prices for international phone calls, losses for all involved, and a downward in the share prices of the country's major phone companies, Compañía de Telefonos de Chile SA, and Telcel-Chile.

One of the most eagerly awaited European telecom offerings is Deutsche Telekom, set to take place in November 1996. Germany's phone company is expected to issue an estimated \$10 billion of new shares, the biggest privatization ever.

While some money managers say they

can't wait to get this solid blue chip in their portfolio, Laurence Heyworth, a telecommunications analyst at Robert Fleming Securities in London, is cautious.

He noted that from the beginning of 1995 to the end of 1996, there will have

been \$25 billion in phone privatizations in Europe alone. "It's unprecedented to have such a supply of stock in one sector at one time, so the Deutsche Telekom AG offering has to be priced to appeal to common investors worldwide," he said.

Privatized Telecom ADRs

Nations' phone lines per 100 people	Share price Nov. 16, '95	P/E ratio	Year to date total return, %
Tele Danmark	60	16.1	1.96
Telecom of N. Zealand	47	20.0	25.78
Nippon Telephone	47	-	-4.31
British Telecom	45	12.9	-1.53
Telefonos de España	37	15.0	15.30
Portugal Telecom	35	23.1	-4.40
Telecom de Chile	12	16.0	-10.00
Telefonos de Mexico	9	6.1	-35.22
Philippine Long Dist.	11	16.4	-2.00
Indosat	11	21.9	-1.50

Source: Morningstar

In Emerging Markets, Reforms Are Key Guide

By Conrad de Aenlle

PRVATIZED companies in emerging markets are not just businesses, but symbols of a government's commitment to pursue economic and political liberalization. That means that people who buy their shares have to come up not only with money but with faith that the government has truly embraced reform.

With many countries' privatization programs already well advanced, the opportunities to buy into new ones will be fewer and farther between.

"Privatizations do well in an environment where companies are allowed to get on with it and the regulatory environment is benign," said Steven Bates, head of the Emerging Markets Group at the Fleming fund management company in London. "These companies are easy to interfere with; the ground rules change."

Brazil, for instance, has delayed the privatizations of its electricity and telephone companies on constitutional grounds, selling non-voting shares to investors for several years so that the state can keep control.

"While there will be good value in some companies" in Brazil, Mr. Bates said, "the political environment is difficult. It becomes difficult for companies to cut costs in a truly commercial way."

Brazil is the last of the four large Latin American economies to proceed with sales of its important state assets. But the mere hint that the drive to privatize was gathering momentum lifted the stock market.

"One of the things that made the market take off earlier in the year was the government's announcement that they were

thinking of privatizing Eletronas and Telebras," said Andrew Couch, manager of the Guinness Flight Global Privatization Fund.

He said he preferred large utilities in emerging markets because "the risk profile is lower. My view is, you're always taking a risk investing in those markets without taking company-specific risk."

The volatility in Latin American markets since the Mexican peso collapsed has preempted share offerings in some of the smaller countries, notably Peru, where authorities have chosen to sell off companies through private placements instead.

Asset sales are likely to be more brisk in the near future on the fringes of Europe and in Southern Asia, many analysts say.

"Central and southern Europe is where we're going to see some of the most interesting opportunities in the next 12 months," said Elizabeth Morrissey, managing partner of Kleiman International Consultants.

The opportunities may be interesting, but not necessarily rewarding, as in the strange case of Slovakia. Its government set up a voucher and fund program along the lines of the largely successful one executed by its neighbor, the Czech Republic. Citizens were given rights to own shares in state companies, and investment funds went into business, allowing the new shareholders to diversify their holdings — which they never received.

After the plan was announced, "the prime minister reversed it and closed all the investment funds," Mr. Morrissey said.

"It has sent the stock exchange to an absolute bottom."

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IN SEARCH OF HAPPINESS AT ANY PRICE: A CONTEMPORARY CHRISTMAS STORY

Or how Audrey and Amanda, amid the frenzy of the holiday season, achieved their true desires.

Audrey got up early the day after Christmas - Boxing Day, as she used to call it back in England. She pouted a bit as she thought with envy of Cousin Clarissa, who had married the Duke of Earl, and thus had the right to be called Duchess. But there was no time to think about that now.

There was so much to do! Her darling American husband Richard had invited his whole family to dinner, and the maid had insisted on taking the day off just because she was seeing her children for the first time in a year. There were still a few more last-minute (now overdue) Christmas gifts to be bought for the relatives, and Richard would be no help at all as he was already at the driving range trying out his new aluminum Gary Player Par Saver Wedges (\$139.95 each with graphite shaft) with the other partners from his law firm.

She shrugged off her Christian Dior white satin nightgown with black lace trim and matching robe (\$1,443) and tossed it on top of Richard's Sulka chalk stripe wool and cashmere robe (\$972). She contemplated her wardrobe. She couldn't decide between the tight-fitting purple and yellow Chanel knit ensemble (\$3,793) with matching scarf (\$1,938) Richard had given her for Christmas and the Claude Montana black leather suit with miniskirt and a peplum on the fitted jacket (\$3,897) she had given herself for Christmas.

Audrey was feeling a bit rebellious, so she decided to wear the Montana because it went so well with her kinky Michel Perry python-skin shoes with rounded toes and mega-high heels (\$485). She sprayed on some of Cartier's new So Pretty perfume (\$93) and grabbed her Yves Saint Laurent black mink car coat (\$3,144). Remembering that the weather report had forecast a mild day, however, she tossed the fur onto the chaise longue and instead put on her Jean-Claude Jitrois stretch leather jacket with braid trim (\$4,227).

On her way down the hall, she peeked into the nursery, where her two little angels, Buffy and Tristan, were fighting for control of the mouse of the Apple Performa 630 CD Plus with CD-ROM drive, built-in speakers and microphone, and 15-inch monitor (\$1,633) they had received for Christmas. Audrey sighed. We should have gotten one for each of them, she thought. "Now, darlings, you must learn to play nicely with your new toy," she said breezily. "And where is Nanny?"

The little sweethearts didn't hear her because they were both screaming at the same time. "I want to play Tale of Benji Bunny," shrieked Buffy. "No, we're playing Dinosaurs," shouted Tristan. He was pulling Buffy's hair to distract her attention while he tried to pry the mouse out of her hand. Luckily Nanny came in just then. "Be sure to clean up this mess in here," Audrey said to her, pointing to a huge pile of Christmas presents. Among the loot were a Doctor Barbie, complete with medical instruments and a baby patient whose heartbeat Dr. Barbie can hear through her stethoscope (\$520) and a talking Robocop whose hologram lips move and who has a special compartment in his leg to conceal his gun (\$331).

Audrey left her adorable children in Nanny's capable hands and went downstairs to consult with Cook. Her lip curled and her pretty little nostrils twitched when she entered the smoke-filled kitchen. Cook quickly snubbed out her cigarette and tried to hide the ashtray under the copy of the "Delia Smith's Winter Collection" cookbook (\$25) she was reading. Although, like Bill and Hillary, Audrey and Richard had banned smoking in the house, she decided not to say anything. Cook was very temperamental, and it wouldn't do to ruffle her feathers before tonight's turkey dinner had been prepared.

"Everything under control for tonight?" Audrey asked sweetly. "It's all in here," replied Cook gruffly, pointing to Delia, her hero. "And, by the way, I'm not using that contraption," she added, pointing to the brand-new Sanyo ShowerWave microwave oven (\$155-\$280) on the counter. "But it's the latest thing," protested Audrey. "It guarantees even heat distribution."

"I don't care. I've never used one, and I'm not going to start now."

"All right, all right," riposted Audrey. "We'll talk about this later. I haven't got time now." She swept grandly out of the kitchen, knocking over the spider-shaped Philippe Starck lemon squeezer (\$62). Luckily, it was unbreakable, and she left it for Cook to pick up.

She sat down in the Mies van der Rohe "Barcelona" chair (\$6,550) in the living room and got out her Montblanc Ramses II lapis lazuli and gold leaf fountain pen (\$1,059) to check over her shopping list. For tonight's dinner, at least 125 grams of Petrossian Beluga caviar (\$222). For her father-in-law, Longchamp's leather portable-computer carrying case (\$588). For her mother-in-law, Lalique's Nilang perfume (\$495) in its beautiful frosted-crystal flacon with the flower-shaped stopper. For Richard's eccentric Aunt Beatrice, Paloma Picasso's Galet de Parfum in a golden pebble-shaped purse spray (\$307). For Richard's elder sister, Longchamp's green patent-leather handbag (\$163). For his younger sister, the limited edition of Thierry Mugler's Angel perfume extract in its dramatic flying comet bottle (\$309).

Audrey looked at her watch, but she wasn't wearing one. Resentment welled up in her, and tears almost wet her carefully made-up eyes. Her watch was being repaired, and Richard hadn't given her the Chopard Happy Sport rose and white gold watch with pink and white diamonds (\$136,410) she'd wanted for Christmas. With its seven free-floating diamonds under the crystal, it was the most cunning thing she'd

ever seen. By the John Lewis rococo-style clock (\$70) on the living-room mantelpiece, a bargain she had picked up in London, she saw that it was already 10 A.M. "Oh my God, I must rush," she said out loud, though no one else was in the room. "I have an appointment with the manicurist at 10:30." She jumped up, threw on her coat and ran to the garage. Richard had taken the Fiat Ulysse (\$25,000) to have room for the law partners, but had left her his new bright-red BMW Z3 (\$30,000) sports car.

The top was down, and she had no idea how to raise it. There was no time to fiddle around with it, so she decided to leave it as it was. Luckily, her Hermès "Kelly" bag (\$3,247) contained her pleated silk "Mexico" scarf (\$289), also by Hermès. She tied it Jackie Kennedy-style on her head and pulled jerkily out of the garage. She zipped through the quiet streets of Greenwich, exceeding the speed limit just a touch. Suddenly, her scarf blew off. "Damn," she said, "now I'll have to go to the hairdresser as well. There's just no time for all this shopping. How will I ever get it done?"

Once in the center of town, she double-parked in front of the manicure shop, Tough Nails, figuring that the meter maids wouldn't be cruel enough to ticket her the day after Christmas. She was five minutes late, and Madge was waiting for her. She let the assistant help her off with her jacket and sat down at the table, slipping off her wedding and engagement rings and her Cartier 18-carat gold and emerald Ellipse "Tête Croisée" ring (\$4,412) that reminded her of a green-eyed snake. While her nails were being soaked, buffed, filed and painted, Audrey idly wondered what dear Richard was up to.

In fact, Richard was having lunch at the club with his colleagues. He checked his 18-karat gold VLC Bi Plan Louis Cartier watch with the alligator band (\$11,629), but he had forgotten to wind it.

This worried him slightly - he was the old-fashioned type who liked to control things himself, and he rarely forgot to wind his watch in the morning. He hoped he wasn't going soft in the head like his father, who had started his downhill slide at the age of 50. "Must have been all those Martinis he drank," he thought to himself as he sipped his Evian (\$5). He was concerned about Audrey, too. She put too much pressure on herself, running around doing all that shopping. He needn't have worried, however.

What with the manicure, the facial, the haircut, dye job, set and blow-dry, and lunch with her friend Suzy, Audrey knew there was no time to shop and had had the great foresight to fax her list to her personal shopper at from the manicurist's.

As she arrived home at 5 P.M., the glittering packages in their silver and gold paper were just being delivered. The gift tags had been filled out in a beautiful calligraphic handwriting and signed "With Love, Audrey and Richard." Cook helped her set them out under the Christmas tree. The table was entirely set with Baccarat crystal: plates (\$125 each), "Lalonde" water glasses and wine glasses (\$60 each) and vase (\$289); and "Vega" candlesticks (\$227 each) and carafe (\$371).

"I'm exhausted," sighed Audrey. "I think I'll take a bath." She peeked into the kitchen. The turkey smelled marvelous, but Cook was grumbling about having to do table service because the maid wasn't there, so Audrey didn't go in.

She took one more peek at the gifts under the glowing tree.

Continued on page 21

Ligne LILAS, en pierres dures et pierres fines, en platine ou or blanc.

Van Cleef & Arpels

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Harrolds Knightsbridge, Fine Jewellery Room LONDON

"THE PERFECT GIFT" was produced in its entirety by the International Herald Tribune's advertising department. WRITERS: Heidi Ellison, in Paris, is the author of "The Irreverent Guide to Paris," to be published by Macmillan in Spring 1996. * Timothy Harper, based at harperim@aol.com, thinks the perfect stocking stuffer is his new book, "The Good Beer Guide to New York," Running Press, \$9.95. * Mary Krienke is a freelance writer based in Geneva. PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Bill Mahder.

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SWATCH TRADES UP

The look might be that of a pricey sports watch – cheap knockoffs of which proliferate on street corners around the world – but look again, these are the Real Thing: genuine Swatches. A dramatic departure from the traditional plastic on which Swatch based its cheap-but-chic appeal, the Swatch "Irony" series comes in stainless steel and aluminum. The seaworthy "Scubas" and the precise-to-the-second Chronos are particular winners at 100 Swiss francs (\$88).

M.K.



The new Swatch "Irony Chrono Aluminum."

QUALITY DESIGN

Glass designers Monica Guggisberg and Philip Baldwin, who combine the best of Scandinavian and Italian glass-blowing techniques to produce costly, unique pieces that find their way into museums and private collections, also turn out exquisite pieces in a series priced from 85 to 650 Swiss francs (\$75-\$573). Bowls, bottles, carafes and champagne flutes share a purity of form and wondrous colors. Guggisberg and Baldwin's atelier/museum, Verrierie Nonfoux, in the Swiss canton of Vaud, might be off the beaten track, but their designs are sold in selected specialty stores and museum shops.

M.K.

"Amphora" carafe by Monica Guggisberg and Philip Baldwin.

GOLD FOR LESS

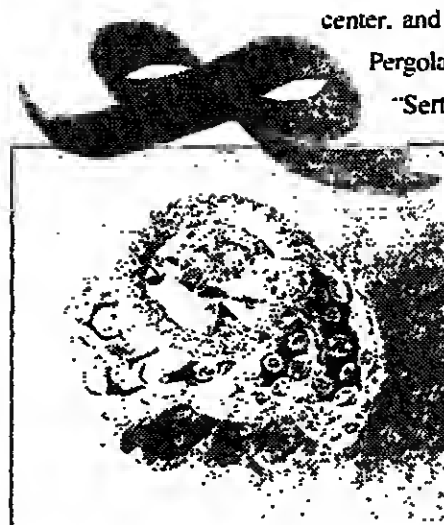
Florentine artist Marco Baldini is best-known for his hand-made paper creations, some of which are part of the permanent design collection of the MOMA in New York. Now he has turned his hand to designing jewelry (pictured below). He works with parchment, to which he applies gold leaf to make bijoux that have the look of solid gold jewelry but cost far, far less. They are sold at his Paris boutique, Charta (104, rue Vieille du Temple, 75004. Tel.: 42 77 25 37). H.E.



GEMS IN RED AND GREEN

The colors of Christmas light up Van Cleef & Arpels' new "Pergola Royal" necklace. The geometric design of the base is paved with diamonds, from which sprout ruby flowers of varying sizes, each with a large diamond at its center, and emerald leaves. The Pergola Royal is part of the "Serti Mysterieux" (mysterious setting) series, named after a technique invented by Van Cleef & Arpels in 1933.

H.E.



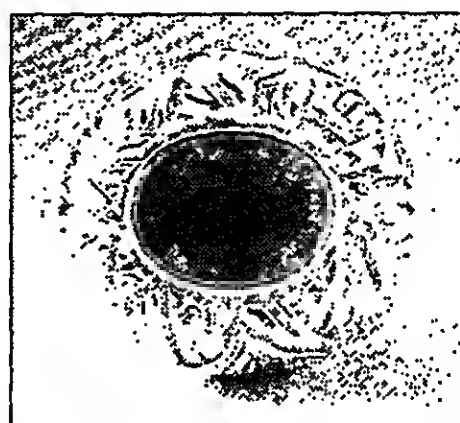
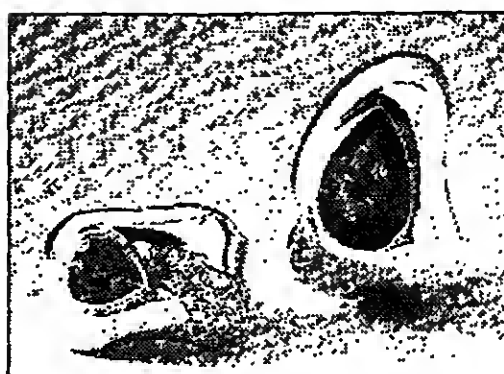
Van Cleef & Arpels' "Pergola Royal" necklace.

THE RING'S THE THING

When it comes to jewelry, the preferred item on many women's lists is the signature ring that makes a strong personal statement with each gesture. Jeweler Liliane Sicard, whose highly individual designs are captivating customers in her gallery-like shop in Geneva, has a particularly strong selection. Her "Bagues Folles" (crazy rings), whose prices range from 3,000 to 10,000 Swiss francs (\$2,643-\$8,810), are really miniature pieces of sculpture. Sensuous gold shapes are set with a bold stone: paraiba (a very rare deep sea-turquoise tourmaline), green granite, topaz or peridot.

Moving into the price-is-no-object sphere is the "Tornado" (tornado) series of one-of-a-kind creations signed by Liliane Sicard and Jean-Pierre Husstein. The most fanciful of these swirls 442 tiny diamonds around a 4.63-carat vintage stone.

Mary Krienke



Geneva jeweler Liliane Sicard's "Bague Folles" (left) are little sculptures.

HOLIDAY OFFERINGS ON THE NET

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas on the Internet.

There's holiday shopping, information, humor and more shopping, including many new sites on the World Wide Web – the Internet's graphical interface – that offer seasonal sights, sounds and, yes, even more shopping.

A couple of surfing sessions turned up Web sites offering classic Christmas books by Charles Dickens and Dr. Seuss, cells of animated Christmas art from television and movies, specially blended Christmas tea, software to "manage" Christmas shopping lists, and musical Christmas cards.

Also: Christmas plates from Denmark, tickets to a Christmas hockey tournament in Michigan, an interactive Christmas TV program from Japan, Christmas art from Switzerland, Christmas jewelry from New Mexico, wooden Christmas toys from China, Christmas decorations from Hungary, and O.J. Simpson and Judge Ito Christmas ornaments from where else, California.

Perfect possibilities

Some gifts are flatly advertised as perfect, in case shoppers had any doubt. The perfect gift for women, supposedly, is the "Wild Women Don't Get the Blues" fashion T-shirt – scooped neck, shoulder pads, one size fits most, for \$29. For "the perfect gift of romance," there's the Prisoner of Love Gift Basket, including Wild Cherry Body Butter, Flavored Whipped Cream, Edible Undies (his and hers), Emotion Lotion, Hot Body Paints and Gold Handcuffs, among other things, all for \$43.95.

From Canada, the Perfect Fry Corporation's Web site promotes the company's deep fryers for french-fried potatoes and other finger food, and invites inquiries from investors interested in licensing or joint ventures around the world.

Many shops, malls and shopping districts have also put together Web pages. The guide for central Paris, for example, notes that the Tuileries or Madeleine stops on the Metro are convenient for shopping at Piaget, Chanel and Van Cleef & Arpels.

Gifts of giving

A wide range of noncommercial interests, such as trade associations and charities, have also established a presence on the Web in hopes of promoting their causes. Operation Christmas Child, for example, is based in Wrexham, a small town in Britain, but used its Web site to attract \$4 million in aid contributions last year for food, clothing and gifts for deprived children in Bosnia, Croatia, Romania and the former Soviet Union.

In the United States, the National Christmas Tree Association has developed a colorful and elaborate Web site that tells people why they should use real Christmas trees, how to select and care for a tree, how to recycle trees and a range of other Christmas tree history and trivia that must gladden the heart of any student assigned to write a paper on the tradition and folklore of ye olde tannenbaum.

Here are a few irresistible Christmas tree factoids to sprinkle through seasonal conversation:

- Egyptians celebrated the shortest day of the year in December by decorating their homes with green palm branches to symbolize life's triumph over death.

- Romans used evergreens for decorations during their winter festival in honor of Saturnalia, the god of agriculture.

- Druid priests hung apples painted gold on trees during winter festivities.

- In medieval times, the feast of Adam and Eve was celebrated on Dec. 24 with an evergreen decorated with red apples.

- The modern Christmas tree dates from the 16th century, when families in Strasbourg, then in Germany, bought fir trees cut from local forests, and trimmed them with colored paper, candy and fruit.

- In 1851, an entrepreneur named Mark Carr drove two oxen sleds of fresh-cut trees from the Catskills into New York, and opened America's first streetcorner retail lot for Christmas trees.

- Today, more than 90 percent of Christmas trees are grown on tree farms.

- Online message boards and chat groups are also getting into the spirit of things. In CompuServe's beer forum, members suggested perfect gifts including beer books, shares in beer companies, beer glasses and mugs, beer-making kits, beer hats and beer T-shirts. And, oh yes, beer.

- In America Online's travel section, suggestions for the perfect gift included a waterproof fanny pack for snorkeling, a pocket electronic currency converter, hiking socks with padded heels and two tickets to Maui, a travel diary from Running Press and a cheap, fake wedding ring for women to wear in countries where unattached women attract undesired attention.

Xmas chat
The meaning of Christmas has also drawn some semi-serious, if confusing, discussion on the Internet. In a newsgroup entitled "alt. religion. santanism," someone from Seattle chided the group for praising Satan.

"No, you backward child...S-A-N-T-A. As in Claus. The Jolly One, not the Dark One."

Another correspondent asked for help in encouraging her Scrooge-like roommates to celebrate Christmas, and yet another urged people to get into the spirit at work: "I have an old German-looking Father Christmas who will stand boldly on top of my computer, as well as the usual holy Santa earrings and pin for my person. Forward into the mull! Visit each Santa shrine!"

The discussion came to a screeching halt, however, when a correspondent with a distinctly academic tone informed the group that the topic was supposed to be the Cuban religious cult Santismo – not at all related to Santa Claus.

Holiday humor
Holiday humor, or attempts at it anyway, fared better in other corners of the Internet. A supposed version of "The Night Before Christmas," as written by a technical writer for a company that does government contracting, began: "Twas the nocturnal segment of the diurnal period preceding the annual Yuletide celebration, and throughout our place of resident, kinetic activity was not in evidence among the possessors of this potential, including that species of domestic rodent known as Mus musculus. Hosiery was meticulously suspended..."

The article ended with the technical writer's version of Santa's best wishes: "Ecstatic Yuletide to the planetary constituency, and to that self-same assemblage, my sincerest wishes for a salubriously beneficial and gratifyingly pleasurable period between sunset and dawn."

In other words, Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

Timothy Harper

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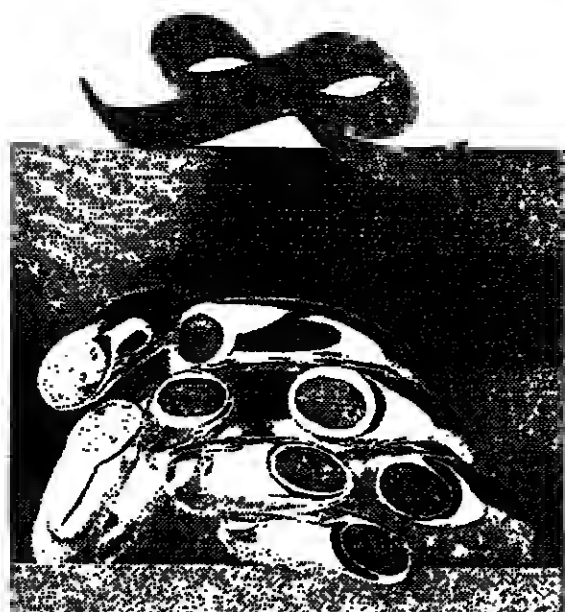
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The prize-winning Château de Sabazan, produced by Plaimont (left), and Cartier's "Tête Croisée" rings from the Ellipse series.



PARIS'S OWN ANSWER TO THE PONTE VECCHIO: THE VIADUC DES ARTS

Paris has an unusual new shopping street that recalls the craftsmanship of centuries gone by.

It's a new concept in malls: Take a disused viaduct and instead of knocking it down, turn its roadway into a long, skinny park and the arches underneath into boutiques.

That is what the city of Paris has very cleverly done with what is now called the Viaduc des Arts, a brick-and-stone viaduct that runs along the Avenue Daumesnil in the 12th arrondissement between Bastille and the Gare de Lyon. The viaduct used to carry the train that ran between Bastille and the Bois de Vincennes.

In another variation on the shopping area, the city has limited the tenants of the arch-boutiques to artisans and designers. On the evening of Nov. 15, the street became a long block party as the shops invited the public in to celebrate the opening of their new spaces with wine and food.

The results of the renovation are impressively handsome. The raw stone of the interiors has been left exposed, and the brick-faced exterior has been cleaned up but otherwise left alone. The arches have been fronted with glass, filling the boutiques with natural light.

Artistry on display

In fact, the street is more like a combined museum, museum boutique and workshop open to the street than a traditional shopping mall. Craftspeople who used to be hidden away in workshops are now part of the display as they sit working by the windows, painting delicate designs on porcelain or restoring tapestries, making flutes, embroidering, gilding leather and so on.

One of the biggest spaces goes to V.I.A. (Valorisation de l'Innovation dans l'Ameublement), which takes up five arches at numbers 29 through 37. V.I.A. showcases and sells the work of contemporary furniture designers.

A walk down the Avenue Daumesnil, beginning at the Bastille end, includes the following boutiques: Les Ateliers de la Source, no. 9, cabinet makers. Loréooové, no. 11, restoration and design of period and decorative windows. Société Ripamonti, no. 13, stone sculptures. Ateliers Michel Fry, no. 15, leather-casing of furniture and leather gilding.



Franck Girard, no. 25, tapestry and carpet restoration. Comité de la Tapisserie d'Aubusson, no. 27, tapestry weaving and restoration. V.I.A., no. 29-37, contemporary furniture design. Home Intra, no. 47, tapestries and contemporary furniture. Cécile et Jeanne, no. 49, jewelry design and reproduction. Atelier Michel Pintado, no. 51, architectural models, paintings, copies, contemporary furniture. Imagine, no. 53, contemporary cabinetmaking. Création Verdissimo, no. 63, contemporary furniture with floral decoration. Atelier Vulcain, no. 65, bronze and wrought-iron furniture. Espace Cyrille Varet, no. 67, wrought-iron furniture. Galerie Claude Samuel, no. 69, art gallery and restoration of contemporary works. Art', no. 71, canvas mounting, antique poster and paper restoration, and framing. Bagues, no. 73, bronze and wrought-iron lighting fixtures.

And that's not all

Here shoppers can take a break at the Père Tranquille café and restaurant (no. 75-77), before continuing their tour: Le Cadre d'Or, no. 79, framing and pedestals. Ateliers Guigues Locca, no. 81, design and restoration of painted furniture, paintings and objets d'art, and design and construction of acoustic equipment. Marie Lavande, no. 83, restoration of antique lace and fabrics, embroidery. Pascal Maingourd, no. 85, tapestries, furnishings and interior decoration. Ardusyl, no. 87, wood gilding, copying of antique frames and framing. Média Cryptage, no. 89, photo retouching. Atelier Le Tallec, no. 93-95, hand-painted porcelain. Pierre Architecture, no. 97, stone sculpture and restoration. Allain Cadinet, no. 99, transverse flute maker. Slaglass, no. 101, handblown glass. Halard et Villatte, no. 107, contemporary furnishings. Ateliers du Cuivre et de l'Argent, no. 109-113, copper and silver objects. Atelier Lebeau, no. 117, sculpted and gilded frame making and restoration. Académie du Viaduc des Arts, no. 119, craftmaking school. Perinet, no. 121, hunting horn making and restoration. Maîtres Premières, no. 123, trompe l'oeil decoration. Artefact, no. 125, architectural models and relief plans. Dix Heures Dix, no. 127, contemporary furniture, lamps and objects.

A CHRISTMAS STORY

Continued from page 19

before going upstairs. She noticed that one of them was wrapped in a different paper from the others. She picked it up and saw her own name on the attached envelope in Richard's scrawl. She opened the card and read this message: "Darling, just a little something to thank you for the hard work you've done today. All my love, Richard." Impulsively she opened the package, and there it was: her Chopard Happy Sport watch. Tears of gratitude almost welled up in her eyes as she slipped it on her wrist and jiggled it around to make the floating diamonds dance.

At that very moment, 3,000 miles away, Audrey's 22-year-old sister Amanda and her not entirely faithful boyfriend Florian were having a late dinner in her Paris garret, actually six maid's rooms that had been converted into an apartment on the top floor of a luxurious Left Bank building. Amanda was an artist and had come to Paris to study at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and to live the simple life à la française.

This was difficult because Daddy kept sending her those big checks and telling her to move to the 16th arrondissement, where "she would be safe." She stubbornly refused to leave her Bohemian lifestyle, however, and furnished her apartment in the style of any penniless art student in Paris, with things like a Quart de Poil cardboard sofa (\$67) and a Bon Marché mirror with a baroque cardboard frame (\$64). Her one indulgence had been the "Danzaric" statue by Italian artist Matteo lo Greco (\$2,724). She had seen it in the window of the Galerie Naikin-Berta and couldn't resist it—it reminded her of the ancient Venus of Willendorf fertility statue she had so admired in her Art History I class.

Amanda watched Florian as he ate the Marks & Spencer Chicken Masala dinner (\$5) she had heated up for him. She was worried that her lack of cooking skills would drive him right into the arms of Valérie, her arch-rival at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and Florian's former (and current?) girlfriend.

At least he like the wine she had picked up at Nicolas, a red 1990 Château de Sabazan from the Côtes de Saint-Mont (\$9.50). She had watched in admiration as he swirled, sniffed and tasted, finally declaring it "complex and intense, full-bodied, elegant and spicy." He detected the aromas of cooked plums, cherries and blackberries. He said it should be drunk with red meat or duck, and Amanda began to worry again.

Valérie was a great cook, as Florian never ceased to remind Amanda, and for Christmas he had given her gift certificates for six cooking lessons at the Ritz-Escoffier Ecole de Gastronomie (\$47 each; six for the price of five). She wondered if she could exchange them for a day at the Ritz's luxurious Roman-style spa (\$124/day); she felt badly in need of a facial, a Shiatsu massage and a swim in the lovely blue-tiled pool.

There was definitely something wrong with the ambience tonight. Florian seemed nervous; he had hardly said a word all evening. Perhaps it was the lighting. She jumped up and lit the candles in the simple wrought-iron chandelier from Ikea (\$73) and switched off the electric lights.

"I can't see what I am eating," said Florian petulantly, with his charming French accent. But then his Timex Data Link watch (\$187) began to beep, conveying a reminder from his PC to call his friend François, who was now dating Valérie. The two couples were going to a big party at the discothèque Les Bains later in the evening.

"I'll take a shower now and get dressed," said Amanda. She glanced at the dirty dishes on table and decided to leave them there. After Florian had made his call, he got out his Sony MiniDisc Walkman MZ-E3 laser cassette player (\$339) and selected the fourth track, his favorite on Blur's "The Great Escape" tape (\$16). He looked around for a place to stretch out. Not possible on the cardboard sofa, so he chose the Axstad relaxation chair from Ikea (\$355). With the headphones on, he didn't hear Amanda call from the bedroom, asking him to help her select a dress to wear.

"To hell with him, then," said Amanda. "I'll wear what I want." The choice was only too obvious. With the generous check Daddy had sent for Christmas, she had bought herself a fabulous Gianni Versace off-white strapless tight-fitting

mini-dress (\$7,200) with two rhinestone-studded zippers running down the length of the front. The only conceivable footwear to go with it was her Courrèges high-top sneakers in transparent and shiny red plastic (\$142). She fastened around her neck a Jean-Claude Brami necklace (\$330) made of enormous pearls. Leaving behind behind the Swatch from the new "Artist" series (\$64), she slipped on a Monet bracelet watch (\$117) instead. She finished off her "look" with a black Olivier Chanan cloche (\$309) with a black lace veil and a huge red rose on top. The Swarovski evening bag adorned with silver crystals (\$1,475) that Mummy had sent her for Christmas was perhaps overdoing it, but it was the only one she had. "If this dress doesn't get Florian to propose to me, nothing will," she thought.

Before she left her room she gave her old-fashioned teddy bear from Au Nain Bleu (\$58) a hug. She had told Florian that she had never had a teddy bear when she was a child, and the very next day he had presented her with this one. He was sweet after all.

Florian whistled when Amanda came out of the bedroom, and she was tempted to give him a hug, too, but just then the doorbell rang. Florian let François and Valérie in. After a flurry of greetings and air kisses, Valérie presented Amanda with a large package, which she immediately ripped open. It was the "Toscane" basket (\$147) from Hédiard, packed with all the elements for making an Italian meal. As she oohed and aahed over it, Amanda wondered if the gift was yet another reflection on her cooking abilities.

She handed François and Valérie their gift: a bottle of Dom Pérignon Millésime in a gift box with two champagne flutes (\$122). "Shall we drink it now?" asked François. "Oh no, it's not cold, and besides, you two should drink it together in a romantic moment," said Amanda, who wanted to encourage their relationship in any way possible.

Out on the street Florian carefully inspected his new Renault Mégane two-door coupé (\$15,000), illegally parked in a crosswalk, to be sure it had sustained no damage during his absence. He took the parking ticket (\$100) off the windshield, tore it up and threw it in the gutter. He would wait for the amnesty before the national elections to avoid paying it and all his other tickets.

When they got to Les Bains, the blonde bouccer known as the Walkyrie was on the door. She took one look at François and Florian with their preppy looks and refused to let them in. The two men argued with her for a good 10 minutes while a stream of drag queens and six-foot-tall models passed through the door held open for them by the Walkyrie. It was no use. When the Walkyrie said no, she meant no.

François and Valérie decided to go on to Castel's and hopped into a taxi. On the way to the car, Amanda's hat slipped off and fell into a puddle. It was all too much for her, and she started to cry.

"I was looking forward to this party so much," she sobbed. "So was I," said Florian, putting his arm around her and slipping something into her hand. "I wanted to give you this." Amanda's tears dried up when she saw a gold, chrysoprase and amethyst Van Cleef & Arpels ring (\$1,855). "Does this mean?...?" She didn't dare finish the sentence. "Yes," said Florian, "You are my fiancée."

Heidi Ellison

Note: Prices cited are approximate.

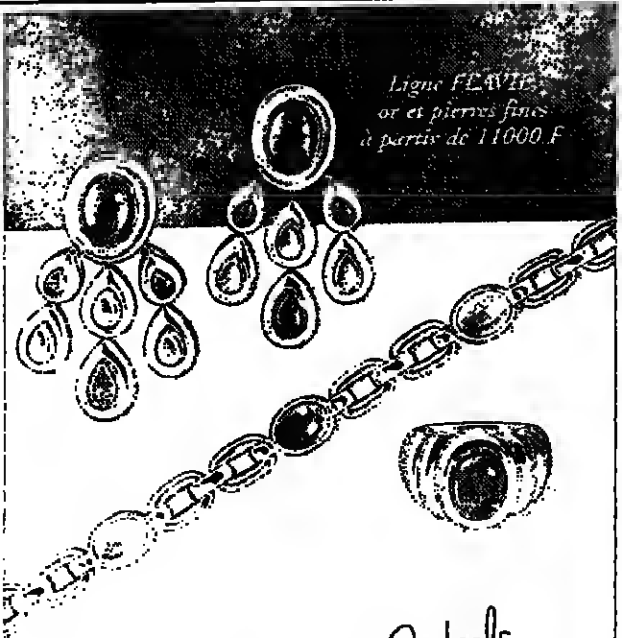
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WORLD ROUNDUP

Hoya Star Goes Straight on Court

By Ira Berkow
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The small white patch over his left eye indicated that this was a rough business for Allen Iverson who, by the grace of the legal system, John Thompson, and the perceived necessities of commerce, is a sophomore point guard for Georgetown University.

At one point in Georgetown's semifinal game against Georgia Tech on Wednesday in the National Invitational Tournament at Madison Square Garden, Iverson, the 6-foot, 19-year-old Hoya who is as wiry as a coiled spring, let loose a three-point shot. It caromed off the rim and ended up out of bounds but still Georgetown's ball.

Iverson, one of the best and most exciting college players in the country, happened to be near his team's bench, and tapped his chest to inform his mates and his coach, the betwined Thompson, that he had, yes, transgressed.

Thompson immediately summoned another player to replace Iverson. As Iverson walked to his seat, he nearly brushed the tall Thompson, who, eyeglasses sparkling in the arena lights, the trademark white towel draped over his right shoulder, looked off in the distance, like an Indian scout.

This was the silent treatment, the coach's version of tough love. In the pocket-sized Georgetown locker room after the game — a game the Hoyas won handily — Iverson was reminded of that moment.

"What Coach was telling me was that I messed up," he said, while managing a

wan smile. "That I had made a bad decision."

In the context of things, this was a harmless bad decision. Iverson has been making fewer such bad decisions, ones in which he becomes less patient than his coach would like, and relies less on his teammates than his coach would like.

But Iverson seems appreciative that this is his biggest headache, one surely that his exceptional talents will help him eventually overcome.

It is a long way, certainly, from the jail farm in Virginia where he spent four months in 1993, convicted on three felony charges stemming from a brawl when he was a high school junior over what was said to be a racial incident in a bowling alley in his hometown of Hampton, which involved 40 people, with several injured.

In December 1993, Iverson, then 17 and serving a five-year prison sentence, was granted an act of clemency, though not a pardon, by then-Governor L. Douglas Wilder. He was "furloughed" to Bethel High School, where Iverson had been a basketball star.

But the governor stipulated that Iverson would not participate in sports, that he undergo counseling and that he adhere to a nightly curfew.

"I am extremely grateful that Governor Wilder has given me a chance to continue my education," Iverson said then.

Meanwhile, college coaches showed interest. Debate then about Iverson's right to play college basketball resembled those of Richie Parker, the New York City Public League basketball star, who last year

pleaded guilty to sexual assault charges. Should there be a place in college sports for a convicted felon? And if so, when?

Thompson said he was approached by Iverson's mother about accepting her son at Georgetown.

"After many in-depth conversations," the coach said, after the decision to enroll Iverson, "I was convinced that he should be given an opportunity to continue his education at Georgetown, provided he satisfactorily completes his educational requirements."

Thompson may indeed have a generous heart, but he also had an eye to Georgetown's revenue-producing sport.

And he has not been embarrassed. Iverson's conviction was overturned by the Virginia Court of Appeals last June on the ground of reasonable doubt regarding his participation in the brawl.

And Iverson has established himself as not only a superb college basketball player but also as a decent citizen and a decent student.

In interviews, he says all the right things. On his game: "I still have a lot to learn." On pro ambitions: "Right now, my most important considerations are hitting the books and helping my team."

As for his time in jail, does he think about it? "Not at all," he said.

Hard to imagine. But if his performance on a basketball court is a melding of his experiences and influences — he plays the game with a gentlemanly ferocity and a pleasure to watch — then he is in the proper place at the proper time.



Allen Iverson pausing as the Hoyas pounded Georgia Tech in an NIT semifinal.

Weah Lifts Milan

George Weah, the Liberian striker, scored both goals as AC Milan beat Sparta Prague of the Czech Republic, 2-0, in Milan in a UEFA Cup third round, first leg match. The first came after 32 minutes when Weah scored to head home a Franco Baresi cross. Weah scored the second with 14 minutes to play when he volleyed in a Marco Simone cross. (Reuters)

Seahawks May Fly Nest

FOOTBALL Ken Behring, the majority owner of the Seattle Seahawks, said he might move the team to another city if it doesn't get a new stadium. He said Cleveland was a possible home. "Cleveland is offering the same as Baltimore gave to the Cleveland Browns," said Behring. The Cleveland mayor's office said that was "absurd." (AP)

Maddux Is Player of Year

BASEBALL Greg Maddux of the Atlanta Braves became the first pitcher selected The Associated Press Baseball Player of the Year. He received 30 votes, Cleveland's Albert Belle was second with 24. (AP)

World Records Fall

WEIGHTLIFTING Chen Shu-chih of Taiwan set two world records in the women's 83-kilogram category at the world championships Friday. Chen beat the record in the clean and jerk by 2.5 kilograms and the overall total by 2.5 kilograms. (Reuters)

Century in Vain by Cairns

CRICKET India beat New Zealand by five wickets in their fourth one-day international on Friday despite an aggressive century by Chris Cairns. India leads the series, 2-1. (Reuters)

Houston Rockets Are Champions in November, Too

The Associated Press

Indiana learned the hard way why the Houston Rockets are two-time defending NBA champions and the Pacers are just contenders.

Facing a rare November defeat, the Rockets tightened their defense in the final minutes and executed effectively on offense for a 115-108 comeback victory over the Pacers in the only NBA game played Thursday night.

"You've got to give them credit, they know how to win," said Indiana guard Mark Jackson. "They knocked down shots when they had to. They're great when they

scramble, and that's what they do best. They didn't let anything keep them from getting the job done."

The Pacers were playing their first game in five days, while the Rockets were playing their fourth in as many nights.

But this is a normal November for the Rockets. They've won seven straight, including five on the road, and are 10-1 for the month. Houston, which set a league record by opening the 1993-94 season with 14 consecutive victories in November, is 34-4 in the month over the last three seasons.

The Rockets forced eight turnovers in the final period by Indiana and limited the Pac-

ers to just one field goal in the final 4:36.

The Pacers failed to capitalize on foul problems that kept Hakeem Olajuwon on the bench for 12 minutes in the first three quarters, and the Rockets utilized a balanced scoring attack that saw Mario Elie come off the bench to score 18 points and lead an offense that had eight players in double figures.

"We don't blow anybody out, we just try to keep it close the last five minutes. Our balanced scoring makes it hard for anybody to beat us. This team is better than the last two because of desire," said Kenny Smith, who contributed 17 points to the victory.

Bruins' Bailey Stays Unbeaten, Canucks End Slump

The Associated Press

Scott Bailey kept an unbeaten record as an NHL goalie intact as the Boston Bruins beat the Los Angeles Kings, 2-1, on Friday. Bailey has three victories and a tie in his four games since the Bruins brought him up.

Cam Neely and Sandy Moger scored the

Bailey, promoted from Providence eight days earlier, faced 19 shots, 10 in the second period when the Kings had four power plays.

In Thursday's only game, the slumping Vancouver Canucks won, 3-2, in St. Louis. The victory snapped a four-game losing streak for the Canucks. Alexander Mogilny had two goals and an assist for Vancouver in a game punctuated by fights and penalties.

The Canucks, with one of the highest payrolls in the league, added an \$800,000 salary Thursday when they acquired Esa Tikkanen from the New Jersey Devils for a draft choice.

NHL ROUNDOUP

only goals the Bruins needed in the first period. Boston lost 18-year-old rookie defenseman Kyle McLaren when he injured his left knee going into the boards with the Kings' Vitali Yachmenev.

SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE							Chicago
TEAM	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	Green Bay
Buffalo	8	0	0	.727	223	118	Tampa Bay
Indianapolis	6	0	0	.545	275	225	Detroit
New England	4	0	0	.545	210	210	Minnesota
Pittsburgh	2	0	0	.182	163	265	
CENTRAL							Atlanta
Cincinnati	7	4	0	.455	277	242	San Francisco
Cleveland	4	0	0	.364	269	277	St. Louis
Houston	4	0	0	.364	231	223	Carolina
Jacksonville	3	0	0	.273	184	250	New Orleans
WEST							Denver
Kansas City	10	2	0	.833	227	185	Dallas
Oakland	6	0	0	.727	271	187	
Denver	4	0	0	.545	249	201	
Seattle	5	0	0	.545	249	223	
San Diego	1	0	0	.091	196	238	
							NATIONAL CONFERENCE
							Green Bay
							Chicago
							Tampa Bay
							Detroit
							Minnesota
							Atlanta
							San Francisco
							St. Louis
							Carolina
							New Orleans
							Denver
							San Francisco
							St. Louis
							Carolina
							New Orleans
							Denver

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	ATLANTIC DIVISION			
	W	L	Pct	
New York	9	2	.818	
Orlando	6	0	.636	
Miami	6	2	.750	
Boston	4	5	.455	
Washington	4	5	.455	
New Jersey	4	6	.400	
Philadelphia	2	7	.222	
CENTRAL DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	
Chicago	9	1	.909	
Indiana	5	4	.556	
Atlanta	6	5	.545	
Detroit	3	6	.333	
Minneapolis	3	6	.333	
Toronto	4	8	.333	
Charlotte	3	8	.273	
Cleveland	2	9	.182	

MAJOR COLLEGE SCORES

	New Jersey	10	0	22	38	53
	Washington	10	0	21	53	54
	Toronto	9	1	61	51	55
	N.Y. Islanders	4	13	2	51	56
NORTHEAST DIVISION						
GB	Pittsburgh	1	5	3	25	91
—	Buffalo	12	1	3	91	58
1 1/2	Montreal	10	1	19	62	57
4	Boston	7	0	17	46	69
4 1/2	Quebec	8	1	17	46	69
5	Ottawa	4	8	13	31	76
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
CENTRAL DIVISION						
—	Detroit	11	6	3	75	64
1	Toronto	12	1	25	71	60
5 1/2	Chicago	7	1	22	71	60
5 1/2	Winnipeg	9	0	22	79	76
6	Edmonton	7	7	21	72	67
7	St. Louis	7	7	2	54	74
7	Calgary	8	11	2	50	62
PACIFIC DIVISION						
—	Vancouver	11	6	5	64	58
1	San Jose	10	7	3	64	58
1 1/2	Los Angeles	10	7	3	64	58
2	San Francisco	10	7	3	64	58
2 1/2	Calgary	9	8	3	64	58
3	Edmonton	9	8	3	64	58
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111 1/2	Utah</					

THURSDAY'S RESULT

1/2	Edmonton	6	10	5	17	54	75	.	
3	Calgary	3	14	4	10	45	77	:	
4 1/2	San Jose	2	16	4	8	61	101	.	
7 1/2	THURSDAY'S RESULT								:

WOMEN'S OLYMPIC QUALIFYING

1/2	Mogilny 18 (Oksuta, Linden) (pp). 4 V-Oksuta	✓
1/2	B (Mogilny). 5 S.L.-Zezel 4 (Hull). Shots on goal:	✓
1	V. 9-14-11—34. S.L.—10-8-11—29. Goals: V-	✓
1 1/2	McLeon. 5.L.-Futr.	

SOCCER

South Korea 2, Germany 1

Key

24

50

S O C C E R

SPORTS

Why College Athletes Don't Know How to Read

Ex-Remedial English Teacher Assails System That Doesn't Work

By Robert Lipsyte
New York Times Service

FOURTEEN seasons ago, shortly after Bobby Bowden became the football coach at Florida State University, a young Rhodes scholar there found herself teaching remedial English to nine freshman football players.

Each weeknight for two hours after dinner, Caroline Alexander would meet her students in the athletic cafeteria in the "underbelly" of the ramshackle old stadium. She was not tutoring them in specific courses to keep them eligible. She was trying to raise their sixth-grade reading levels.

At first, to this British bookworm who had graduated from Florida State without ever attending a football game, they were just a clump of very large, very young, black men. As one of them explained to her: "We can't write. We ain't got no grammar."

But as the year rolled out, Alexander was able to separate the bumpkins from the slicksters, the dreamers from the doers. She came to see them as individuals rather than "Seminoles."

Except for their enormous and fragile physical talents, they were everyday young men. Not one was stupid and most were witty and amusing; she discovered that "ideas flashed across their papers."

But none had been properly prepared by high school for even a forgiving college course. The players hoped that it wouldn't matter; college and then professional stardom would cover all academic deficiencies.

Few would make the pros, fewer graduate.

After that year, Alexander went on to teach in Africa and to write intricate and well-received historical nonfiction. She began edging toward stardom that few of her students ever achieved.

Jessie Hester had a career with the Raiders and the Colts. Orson Mobley played for the Broncos and the Colts. Greg Allen was briefly with the Browns and the Buccaneers. Two of the nine were in jail when Alexander decided to track them down, and one had disappeared. Eight of their voices speak in "Battle's End: A Seminole Football Team Revisited" (Knopf).

This is a quietly compelling book that cuts through the fight songs and the finger-pointing that will dominate on Saturday, when Florida State meets Florida in a game that could redeem its season and even put it in the Fiesta Bowl against Nebraska for a shot at the national title.

Earlier in the week, Bowden signed a five-year contract extension at almost \$1 million a year. The stadium where Alexander taught is now an imposing red-brick monument to the low end of

higher education. But the critical issue is the same; if Alexander left her New Hampshire home and went back to teach this season, the final scores would probably be the same. Ignorant — not stupid — young men hustled through high school and recruited to help pay the mortgage on the stadium, not the library.

"It's just too easy to look at these players and to demonize them as the barbarians we allowed into the university, or to make them victims," said Alexander. "If I had any ax to grind writing this book, it was to say the public school system is appalling."

"Yes, like a lot of colleges, FSU became a powerhouse by recruiting people not equipped for college. But it's not as if football unequipped them. It was a system — and this sounds elitist — that says everyone should go to college, which then lets high schools off the hook to educate properly."

"Of course, if high schools educated properly so young people could function in jobs, it wouldn't be so good for this enormously profitable college system, tuition, books, housing, food. Let's not say football is the only problem."

Alexander is more witness than commentator in her 220-page book, allowing the eight to unravel their stories. The best known, Hester, lives large and free, but his advice to young women when he speaks at high schools should be broadcast on public service commercials. "Don't let these little boys get you pregnant, hold you back," he says. "Allow yourself the chance."

Quent Reed, jailed for a parole violation after a conviction for armed robbery, recalled "a lack of vision" in his old neighborhood, where "95 percent of role models are sports heroes." He wished he could go back and tell kids, "You don't have to do sports."

AND Greg Allen, a supermarket manager, the father of three, married to his high school sweetheart, said: "I would give anything just to be a bookworm, to read, read, read, just to have the knowledge."

Alexander, a swimmer and runner herself, does not believe that talented athletes should be schooled only for athletic failure. "You can't fight the joy of doing well," she said. But she also recalls how naive she was in 1981. "I thought if they were exposed, they would all just come to love to read."

Two years ago, Alexander finally got to a football game, as part of a ceremony in which successful Florida State alumni were honored. Her book's title comes from these lines of FSU's fight song:

For FSU is on the warpath now
And at the battle's end she's great.
For Alexander's nine remedial English students, the battle slogs on.



Dallas's Scott Case taking the high road to bring down Kansas City wide receiver Tamarick Vanover during second-quarter action in Irving, Texas.

With Smith Hurt, a Costly Win for Dallas

The Associated Press

The Dallas Cowboys now share the best record in the National Football League. Whether they still have the NFL's best running back remains to be seen.

After beating the Kansas City Chiefs 24-12 in a Thanksgiving Day showdown, the

NFL ROUNDOUP

Cowboys might face a more demanding test — the possibility of playing without Smith, who was wheeled off the field with a knee injury late in the third quarter.

He was to have an MRI exam on Friday.

The preliminary diagnosis was a sprain; anything worse could doom a Dallas chance at another Super Bowl.

"I just pray to the good Lord my man is O.K.," said the coach of the Cowboys' running backs, Joe Brodsky.

The Dallas victory was a big one, as it ended Kansas City's seven-game winning streak and a chance to clinch a playoff berth, but Smith's injury made for a gloomy locker room for the Cowboys.

Dallas also lost center Ray Donaldson, who will undergo surgery for a broken ankle.

Dallas improved to 10-2, while the

Chiefs, off to their best start, dropped to 10-2, the best records in the NFL.

Smith, the league's leading runner, has had nine 100-yard rushing games this year. But with 1:24 left in the third quarter, Smith went down without being tackled while trying to make a cutback on the artificial turf.

"Emmitt has made that cut 1,000 times," said offensive tackle Nate Newton. "This time the knee didn't hold up. It just shakes you."

Smith rushed for 56 yards and scored a touchdown on a 15-yard run before he was hurt. Troy Aikman, the Dallas quarterback,

threw two touchdown passes, one to tight end Jay Novacek, the other to Michael Irvin.

Lions 44, Vikings 38 Scott Mitchell, the Lions quarterback, played on a gimpy right ankle, threw a career-high four touchdown passes and shattered Bobby Layne's team record with 410 yards Thursday as the Detroit Lions kept their playoff hopes alive with a wild victory over the Minnesota Vikings.

"Anybody who doesn't think Scott Mitchell is tough enough is welcome to put on my uniform and try him out," said receiver Herman Moore.

Dolphins Must Hope Marino Will Break No Records

By Timothy W. Smith
New York Times

Miami (6-5) vs. Indianapolis (6-5) The Jim Harbaugh, of the Colts, and Dan Marino are the two top rated passers in the AFC. But it seems that in every game that Marino breaks a passing record, the Dolphins lose.

Check the Monday night debacle against the 49ers. Earlier this season against the Colts, Marino set a record for most completions, the Dolphins lost and Marino was injured and missed the next three games. Miami hasn't been the same since.

The winner will move a step closer to a wild-card playoff spot.

Las Vegas oddsmakers make Miami two-point favorites.

New York Giants (3-8) vs. Chicago (6-5) The Giants continue to plod through the season. Meanwhile the Chicago Bears are busy trying to position themselves for a playoff spot. The Erik Kramer-to-Coway connection will further that aim in this game. Chicago by 1½.

New England (4-7) vs. Buffalo (6-3) Bills

defense has recorded 36 sacks — the most in the NFL. Drew Bledsoe is the lowest rated passer in the AFC. Buffalo by six.

Cincinnati (4-7) vs. Jacksonville (3-8) Jeff Blake's 23 touchdown passes for the Bengals lead the AFC, and he has thrown at least one in 18 straight games. The Bengals are coming off an embarrassing loss to Pittsburgh, in which they blew an 18-point lead. Cincinnati by three points.

Philadelphia (7-4) vs. Washington (3-8) A shoot-out between these two teams earlier this season helped launch Philadelphia. The Eagles have won six of their last seven games and seem firmly in control of a playoff spot. Philadelphia by three.

Tampa Bay (6-5) vs. Green Bay (7-4) Tampa Bay has allowed just 17 touchdowns this season — second fewest in the NFL.

The teams have similar records but are playing at a different level. Tampa Bay's defense is stingy, but their offense lacks consistency. The Packers are capable on defense and the offense, powered by quarterback Brett Favre (25 touchdowns, best in the NFL), is strong. Green Bay by eight.

New York Jets (2-8) vs. Seattle (5-6) The Jets have rushed for just 917 yards — fewest in the NFL. That weakness means they cannot control the tempo of games. Seattle has been hot the last few weeks, winning three straight. Since being benched quarterback Rick Mirer has come around. He has found Joey Galloway an inviting deep target. Seattle by 6½.

Denver (6-5) vs. Houston (4-7) The Broncos have the second-best passing attack in the AFC. The Oilers the second-best pass defense. John Elway will have to overcome the Oilers' tenacious pass defense, which has picked off 14 passes and returned four for touchdowns. Denver by 3½.

Pittsburgh (7-4) vs. Cleveland (4-7) The Steelers beat the Browns two weeks ago and nothing has changed for either team. The Steelers are on the up, and the Browns are swooning. Pittsburgh by 5½.

St. Louis (6-5) vs. San Francisco (7-4) Steve Young will return after missing five games with a shoulder injury and two weeks after arthroscopic surgery on his injured shoulder. But the offensive line still

has the injury problems that allowed him to be hurt in the first place. 49ers by 10.

Atlanta (7-4) vs. Arizona (3-8) It might be time to start taking the Falcons serious. The same can't be said of the Cardinals, who were blown out by the expansion Panthers last week. The Falcons are an explosive team on offense. Now that receiver Terance Mathis is healthy and has rejoined Metcalf, Atlanta has a tandem that can burn most teams. Atlanta by 3½.

Carolina (5-6) vs. New Orleans (4-7) The Panthers, an expansion franchise, can reach 500 with a victory over the Saints, who were derailed by the Vikings last week. Carolina quarterback Kerry Collins will have to stay cool against the Saints who have 33 sacks. The Panthers' defense isn't bad either. New Orleans by 4½.

Oakland (6-5) vs. San Diego (4-7) Jeff Hostetler, the Raiders quarterback, may not play. Backup Vince Evans has shown he can fling it down the field in the fine Raiders tradition. Bobby Ross sent the defense back to basic training this week. It might be a little late. Oakland by 2½.

DENNIS THE MENACE



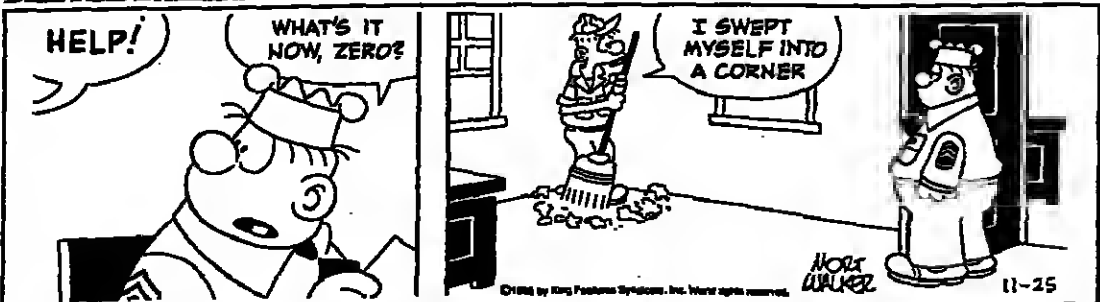
PEANUTS



GARFIELD



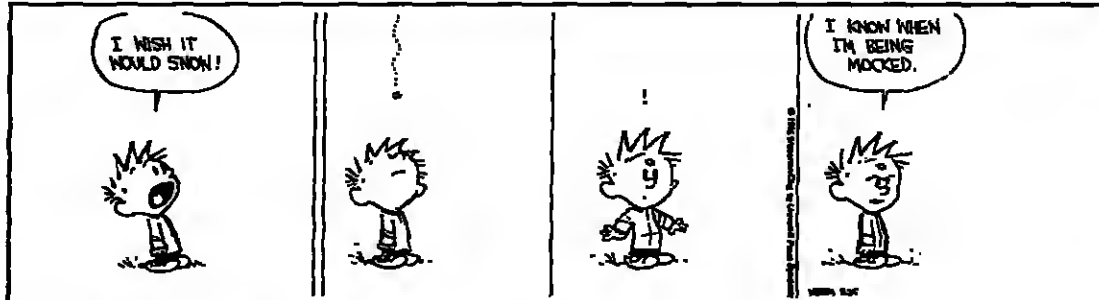
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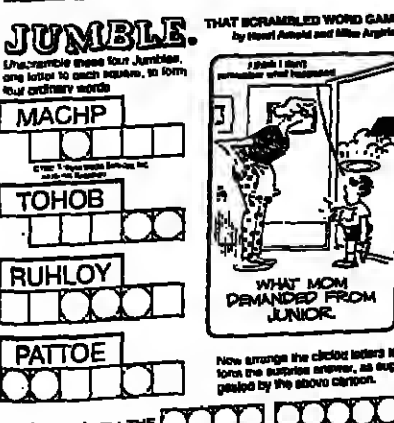
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By Gigi Anders
Washington Post Service

least four months for your shipment. No matter who you are. So take a number, Arnold. Arnold as in



"The demand is incredible," he continues. "Here in the U.S., we've looked everywhere" for qualified cigar makers. "But if they're not around, there's not much you can do. We tried advertising in the Miami Herald, but the applicants weren't any good. It's a serious thing, this shortage, it's major."

making cigars. It's been 36 years, now. Thirty-six years of love."

A Happy Thanksgiving for a New Flower Seller

On Thanksgiving, he was selling red rosebuds with baby's breath, pink carnations and orange gladioluses at a corner

but he was not interested.) An older woman in a Mercedes bought two roses and asked if he was warm enough in his denim jacket. (Not really. He wished he had listened to his uncle and taken a sweater.)

"I am so impressed with these happy people," Antonio said. He was sold out by 2:30.

□ No sweatpants. No sleeveless, tight T-shirt. No stunts. Jackie Chan was dressed in a mortarboard and gown on Friday as he received an honorary doctorate in social sciences from Baptist University in Hong Kong. But throughout the ceremony, the kung-fu master, who left home at age 7 to be apprenticed to a drama group and had little formal education, remained the center



Shorter visits Bangkok with the pianist Herbie Hancock and the drummer Thelonus Monk Jr.? They will be there to

Europe

	Today		Tomorrow	
	H	L	H	L
Austria	16:11	11:52	17:62	8:49
Belgium	9:45	7:04	8:58	5:35
Algeria	14:11	7:05	16:48	-2:28
France	14:57	7:04	16:58	8:49
Germany	16:11	12:25	16:51	10:49
Belgrade	11:52	2:29	10:33	4:29
Brussels	9:45	7:04	8:58	5:35
Bombay	19:50	7:04	18:48	8:43
Calcutta	19:50	7:04	18:48	8:43
Canton	19:50	7:04	18:48	8:43
Chennai	19:50	7:04	18:48	8:43
Colombo	19:50	7:04	18:48	8:43
Dubai	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
Edinburgh	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
Frankfurt	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
Geneva	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
Helsinki	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
London	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
Los Angeles	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
Madrid	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
Moscow	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
New York	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
Paris	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
Rome	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
Seoul	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
Shanghai	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
Singapore	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
Tokyo	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20
Washington	8:46	6:20	8:46	6:20

Forecast for Sunday through Tuesday, as provided by Accu-Weather.

Asia

	Today		Tomorrow	
	H	L	H	L
Bangkok	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Beijing	15:53	-3:67	10:50	-2:29
Calcutta	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Chennai	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Colombo	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Dubai	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Edinburgh	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Frankfurt	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Geneva	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Helsinki	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
London	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Los Angeles	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Madrid	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Moscow	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
New York	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Paris	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Rome	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Seoul	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Shanghai	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Singapore	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Tokyo	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Washington	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75

Latin America

	Today		Tomorrow	
	H	L	H	L
Buenos Aires	27:50	18:24	27:80	18:01
Caracas	27:50	18:24	27:80	18:01
Lima	24:68	18:02	21:70	17:05
Los Angeles	24:68	18:02	21:70	17:05
Managua	22:71	8:48	18:04	1:59

North America

	Today		Tomorrow	
	H	L	H	L
Anchorage	-3:67	-18:14	-4:05	-11:27
Atlanta	15:53	5:41	13:96	5:41
Boston	8:46	3:24	10:50	3:27
Calcutta	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Chennai	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Dubai	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Edinburgh	21:68	20:27	32:89	24:75
Frankfurt				

EUROPE	
Armenia**	8014111
Austria***	022-993-011
Belgium**	0-8-800-100-18
Bulgaria**	00-1800-0010
Croatia**	39-385-4288
Czech Republic**	00-420-00101
Denmark	8001-0010
Finland	0800-100-18
France	19-0011
Germany	0130-0010
Gibraltar	8800

00-800-1511	MIDDLE EAST		AMERICAS
000-800-0111	Bahrain	800-001	Argentina*
000-9001	Cyprus*	080-90010	Bolivia
1-800-550-000	Egypt* (Cairo)*	510-9200	Brazil
172-0111	Israel	177-100-2727	Canada
80196	Jordan	18-800-000	Chile
0-800-0111	Kuwait	800-288	Colombia
EYR-111	Lebanon (Beirut)*†	426-801	Ecuador
0800-800-110	Qatar	0800-017-77	El Salvador
0	Saudi Arabia	1-800-10	Guatemala
00-022-0111	Syria	0-801	Honduras†
800-190-11	U. Arab Emirates	500-121	Mexico**
800-010-480-0111	AFRICA		Nicaragua
05817-1-288	Gabon	800-001	Paraguay
01-800-4288	Gambia*	00-111	Peru†
00scw)	Ghana	0191	Venezuela*
00-420-0011	Ivory Coast*	00-111-11	
900-90-00-11	Kenya*	0800-10	
820-795-011	Liberia	797-797	
155-00-11	Morocco	902-11-0011	
00-800-12277	Sierra Leone	1100	
80100-11	South Africa	0-800-90-0123	
800-80-0011	Zambia*	00-899	
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